Inflation

sider what we are getting ourselves involved with, Madam Speaker.

To summarize, I have all due respect for the motion put forward by the Créditiste party—for whom, as I mentioned earlier in my remarks, I do have the greatest respect—and for the ideas I have heard them express, but I find myself unable to agree that my government has done nothing about the inflation problem confronting Canadians. Rather, it has taken some very positive measures in this regard which have been acknowledged by members of the western world community. There is some evidence of this in that our own Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) has been elected chairman of the interim committee of the World Monetary Fund. There is also such evidence in the provisions of the November 18 budget.

• (2140)

Furthermore, Madam Speaker, I want to suggest once again that, in my view, the inflationary ogre may well be moving to a lesser position on our list of economic priorities.

I am unable to support the tenuous suggestion that the government should further shore up the economy by artificially supporting high food prices at a time when we are really looking at means by which we can keep prices and costs as low as possible.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Epp: On a point of order, Madam Speaker, the hon. member for Scarborough West (Mr. Martin), who just concluded his remarks, said that I had mentioned on previous occasions that he read his material. I should like to commend him tonight for not doing that. If the hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Guay) were to make the same contribution this would be a better place.

Mr. Guay (St. Boniface): Madam Speaker, I would like to say a few words on the same point of order. Here we had an example of a Liberal backbencher making a very constructive speech. If you were to compare that with the speech of the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) then I think the Leader of the Opposition should be complimenting this backbencher on a job well done.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Order, please. It being 9.45 p.m. it is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 58(9), to interrupt these proceedings and forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of the motion now before the House.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): All those in favour please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): All those opposed please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

[Mr. Martin.]

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): In my opinion, the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Call in the members.

The House divided on the motion (Mr. Matte) which was negatived on the following division:

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