

were reasons for price increases and areas over which Canada had no control.

We in this party do not operate in a vacuum, and Canada cannot operate in a vacuum. We must operate in world markets. Surely, the hon. member for Don Valley recognizes that fact. It might be interesting to go back to the time when the hon. member for Don Valley was addressing his economic students to find out what kind of pitch he was making at that time. I venture to guess that some of the hon. member's lectures on why controls would not work in Canada would be very interesting. I can imagine him putting a question such as this to his students: Give us your views why controls would not work? It is only a guess on my part, but I feel that we might find one or two questions of that kind in his examination papers, or certainly in his lectures. I hope that most of his students were good thinkers and pointed out to him, notwithstanding the fact they might get a failing mark, that what he proposed would not work in theory and would certainly not work as far as Canada is concerned.

I want to state that, as Chairman of the food prices committee, I agree with the hon. member for St. John's East (Mr. McGrath), the committee did work hard. I think we disagreed on only one point. I understand their party is prepared to accept five or six of the recommendations of that committee and only oppose the establishment of a food prices review board. In any event, the committee did work hard, no thanks at least in the beginning to those opposition members who first of all were successful in removing any expertise we might have received from the Senate. I am not particularly given to defending the Senate in this Chamber, but I think members of that place, particularly members such as Senator David Croll, might have played an important role in the work of that committee. Such members might have provided much expertise but, for whatever reason they had, the Conservatives rejected that expertise, and I suggest this has worked to the detriment of Canadians generally.

The leader of the NDP said the Minister of Finance was being complacent when he said that certain things had been done, and nothing more remained to be done. I suggest he was misinterpreting what was said by the minister. The minister not only outlined what had been done, he went on to say what was being done and what would be done in the future. There is no complacency on the part of this government. With a two-seat majority in this House we cannot afford to be complacent but must act in a responsible way in order to win the respect and support of other hon. members.

The minister indicated that we were combatting rising prices by increasing exemptions, lowering taxes, removing tariffs and allowing the transfer of family farms from one generation to another without imposing a capital gains tax. He also pointed out the increase in old age pensions and guaranteed income supplements, veterans' pensions, higher family allowances and higher income supplements for senior citizens, having them tied to the cost of living. All these things have been done and will be done by this party and government, and that is why I am pleased to support it, as I have done for some considerable length of time.

### *Increased Cost of Living*

Much has been said to discredit the food prices committee. It has been suggested that it was a toothless committee and could only come out with recommendations that were toothless. I suggest that the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) was breathless when he suggested the committee and its recommendations were toothless. He obviously did not consider the board's powers under the Inquiries Act. If the hon. member were in the underwear business now and decided to raise prices to an exorbitant level I wonder whether he would be somewhat apprehensive about the review board having a look at the situation. Our committee worked well. We never lacked a quorum. I give credit to all hon. members for this. Members of the Conservative party, such as the hon. member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Scott) and the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Hargrave) made a sincere effort to see that the committee worked.

The Committee had credibility to the point that two provincial governments asked that their representatives be permitted to appear before us. One of them had this to say about our committee and about the fact that such a committee was set up:

• (1720)

We commend the members of the Committee for their undertaking and for their dedication to objectively review and analyse all this complex situation and set of problems. While we do not assume to have all the answers at hand, we would like to explore with you the philosophy of our government in this area and some suggestions for your consideration.

If that committee was a waste of time, certainly the Progressive Conservative government of Alberta did not think so.

**Mr. H. W. Danforth (Kent-Essex):** Mr. Speaker, in opening my remarks this afternoon, I cannot forgo an observation that has become so apparent this afternoon. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) when he spoke, the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Lewis) when he spoke and the chairman of the food prices committee, each in turn castigated this party because they learned nothing about the income regulations that this party proposed. They learned nothing about their scope or their aim or composition. They were speaking from, by their own admission, absolute ignorance when they indicated as their reasoned opinion that such regulation could not work. Mr. Speaker, in my opinion this is absolute hypocrisy because if they make statements like that on a subject that is so serious, they should at least know some of the fundamentals of what is proposed. Had they listened to the various speakers from this party who have endeavoured from time to time in a reasoned and reasonable way to indicate what we believe would provide a solution to one of the most terrible problems facing this country today, they would then have had some indication of what we are trying to accomplish.

What I would like to do this afternoon in the time allotted to me, which is very short, is to show why the people of Canada are not only confused but alarmed at what is happening. I listened with rapt attention to the Minister of Finance. I listened with very careful attention to the leader of the New Democratic Party and to the Chairman of the food prices committee. What struck me as a Canadian was the fact that each of them seemed pre-