

Economic Conditions

Canadian currency is but another commodity and its value will increase or decline on the basis of supply and demand.

What can be done, then, to increase the demand or reduce the supply? There are a number of steps, Mr. Speaker, which include providing a climate in which business and enterprise will flourish in Canada. The second step is to reduce taxation. Third, reduce the cost of government and eliminate waste and extravagance and the duplication of services. Four, retard the process of printing money in excess of the growth in the gross national product.

What about the climate for business? This is a climate in which only a carpetbagger would be intrigued with the prospect of success. Our federal government has driven a wedge between the east and the west of our country. With the constitutional proposals it has created an anathema between one section of Canada and another. Government has survived on conflict and division. We expend our national energies on constitutional debate and cultural and linguistic programs while our economic framework crumbles around us.

Mr. Speaker, these days are reminiscent of the days when Nero fiddled while Rome burned. There is a curious similarity between the Prime Minister of this country and that rather infamous and idiotic emperor of ancient Rome.

I dealt with the issue of tax reductions when I spoke earlier. What about the need for the reduction in the cost of government? Well, Mr. Speaker, the public has some rather recent illustrations of how well the government has managed our money. We were told this week of a \$60,000 potential grant to the pro-Castro, pro-communist, former prime minister of Jamaica, Michael Manley, so that he may pursue his educational endeavours in Canada. We were told not long ago of the expenditure of some \$1,360,000 by the language game Santa Claus, the Commissioner of Official Languages, who acquired 200,000 language games to be distributed without charge throughout Canada. We know of \$250 million of Canadian taxpayers' money which is to be spent drilling and exploring for oil in the Third World. We know of \$400 million of Post Office losses which must be picked up, directly or indirectly, by the taxpayers of this country while their service declines. We know of \$577 million paid out this year to the perennial parasite, the CBC, and we know of \$1.2 billion spent on foreign aid.

● (0610)

My suggestion is that it may well be time to have some regard for the possibility of saving some of that \$1.2 billion, because this country, if it continues on the present path set for it by the government, will be in the category of the normal recipients. The government and their NDP friends and supporters have one common failing. They believe that the economy of Canada can sustain perennially incessant demands for funds to be squandered like water rushing from an artesian well. It is the people of Canada who create the wealth, the people who work and strive and expand their energies on developing a future for themselves, their families and their country, not the government.

The government produces nothing. It extracts, controls, harasses, picks our pockets and rides on our backs. Free the people who make the country great. Give them a chance. This government has proven itself unable to do so, and the consequences are apparent to us all today—the high interest rates of which we all complain, plummeting dollar values, rising unemployment and increased deficits to be borne not only by ourselves, but by our children and our children's children. This government of national destruction has been exposed for what it is, a dismal failure. Let it do one of two things: cure the ills to which we make reference or, in the name of God, get out.

Mr. Blaine A. Thacker (Lethbridge-Foothills): Mr. Speaker, I see the time is almost 6.15 in the morning. I must say that I have sat patiently since the debate began at eight o'clock and listened to members on both sides of the House. I am impressed with the very large number of suggestions which have been put forth by this side. Unfortunately, from the other side we have heard nothing from the minister that would amount to anything more than a recognition that we are in a very serious situation. There were no creative ideas on how to handle this situation. The interest rate is 17.3 per cent at this moment, but later today it will be going up, and it may hit 18 per cent and go even as high as 19 per cent.

The results in my constituency, where there are many farmers, is a building rage and anger which will spill over in some form of action which will be very drastic for the country. As the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton) put it, in 1921 the Progressives swept the west and had a real effect on this country. That could easily happen again.

This government is bringing together a constitutional package that turns the province of Alberta and other regional provinces into second-class provinces. It is an attack on the common-law heritage of rights protected under Parliament and the nationalization of a successful industry that is based in the west. It is a combination of that plus high interest rates for farmers who really borrow money at the front end and this will be disastrous for this country.

I am pleased to be able to say that the hon. members for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans), Kitchener (Mr. Lang), Lambton-Middlesex (Mr. Ferguson) and Don Valley East (Mr. Smith) have faithfully sat throughout the evening and given the impression—and I believe the honest impression—that they have been listening. I ask those members to go back to their caucus and somehow get across the depth of feeling and the fact that we are not in this to be advancing our own cause, because there will not be an election for another three or four years. Many people will suffer in the meantime, and if they can get across that attitude to their caucus, it would be of tremendous benefit to the citizens of Canada.

I would like to explain how a couple of Liberal policies are having a disastrous effect. We know that OPEC formed its oil cartel in 1959 and that they formed that cartel in reaction to a 50-year conspiracy whereby the western nations permitted the creation of the seven sisters, that the combination of the western industrial complex and the seven sisters held down the