

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Never mind. You had an hour and a half to attempt to say something; now give me fifteen minutes really to say something.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Time.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: It is not time; I am watching the clock. Souris has made five speeches already, and all he contributed was a little more about wheat.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): That is chicken feed, George.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: All right; go on. I rather enjoy it. Some years ago I named a day for the hon. member for Souris; that day was April 1, and it still holds. Let me tell the hon. gentleman that one of our basic foods, Marquis wheat, was first produced in Agassiz, British Columbia, in 1906. Take that home to Souris.

I now want to refer to the Social Crediters, who seem always to vote with the Conservatives.

An hon. MEMBER: Not always.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: No, I know; sometimes you are fair. I believe the hon. member for Jasper-Edson will admit that he said this was to be a fact-finding committee, not a policy-making committee. If anyone has to assume responsibility for policy making it is the government of the day. If they do wrong they have to stand or fall by it. I believe this debate has developed into another Olympic controversy, where that goat Brundage has been doing all the talking. Here I am contributing to it now, and I will have to cut it short. Why do we not get on with the problem and try to find the reason for the increased cost of living? We have all the machinery to prosecute those who profiteer. I hope the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) is listening to me. I do not think he takes my advice all the time, but I believe he should bring back the excess profits tax or something equivalent. I want to go after the people that members of the opposition represent ninety per cent of the time, the people who profiteer at every possible opportunity on the poor men whom hon. gentlemen opposite try to defend now, a year and a half after they asked that controls be removed. The people of my riding are determined not only that we are to have a fact-finding committee but that, after that committee has done its work, you may judge my riding by my vote in this house if the government does not undertake suitable action to remedy the situation.

Mr. F. S. ZAPLITNY (Dauphin): Mr. Speaker—

[Mr. Kuhl.]

Some hon. MEMBERS: Question.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: I am sure the hon. gentlemen who call "question" realize that they are sitting on the government side of the house. We on this side have been calling "question" on the matter of price controls for the last two years. They have not seen fit to do anything about it; therefore they should not show such impatience today. I believe we have just heard from the hon. member for Fraser Valley (Mr. Cruickshank) some words of real wisdom. If I may offer a suggestion to the hon. member for Temiscouata (Mr. Pouliot), who always makes such delightful speeches in this house, it would be that the next time he has a lecture to deliver he direct it toward the administration which he supports. Today the hon. member criticized this group for advocating price control, and no sooner was he finished than one of his colleagues sitting directly behind him rose in his place and supported the stand taken by this group. Surely, if advice is to be given it should be given at home first.

Mr. POULIOT: I gave advice to no one.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: I believe the question we are now discussing is so serious that we should not attempt to divert the attention of this house or of the public from it by any side issues of any kind.

Some of the lectures we have been listening to from the government side of the house would seem to leave the impression that, in some mysterious way, by setting up a committee the government is doing what the public demands. I have not seen anywhere in the press any demand, nor have I seen any resolution sent to members of the house demanding a committee of investigation. But I have seen plenty of demands—and so have other members—for action now on the question of price control.

I do not believe the people who have been following the course of this debate will be satisfied with what they have heard thus far from cabinet ministers who have taken part in the debate. One of the forgotten factors, it appears to me, has been the fact that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott), who is most closely concerned, or who ought to be most closely concerned with the question of price control, has seen fit not to have anything to say on the question. We have heard from other cabinet ministers and from the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) himself; but the Minister of Finance has kept his counsel. I am not making this assertion, but it would almost appear as though someone in his party has told the Minister of Finance that he has made a bad enough mess