

Canadian Economy

certainly produce greater difficulties to domestic industry attempting to expand. There is no question that the anti-inflation policy will present the government with new challenges in all these areas. The policy is intended to keep a reasonable lid on both prices and incomes.

Canadians are being asked to revise the order of their priorities over the next little while. All these factors will have an effect on the viable productive capacity of various individual industries within the country. The government will respond to these challenges and, unlike the opposition parties which sit across from us in this House, it will respond in a positive and meaningful way and I am sure it will continue to receive the support of the vast majority of the Canadian people.

Before concluding, I should like to make reference to a comment made by the hon. member for Athabasca (Mr. Yewchuk) with regard to Petro-Can in which he once again referred to the lack of necessity for an organization sponsored by government in this particular industry. As we said last spring—I think it is worth while again reminding the hon. member and his party—the situation in Canada today regarding oil and natural gas supplies has changed dramatically from the situation three or four years ago. I suggest that the entry of a government-sponsored organization such as Petro-Can into this over-all problem will, in turn, not only create more jobs by assisting in the exploration and development of new sources of energy but will also serve to alleviate some very serious energy problems which would otherwise beset us in the years to come.

● (1630)

[Translation]

Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, I would like at the outset of my remarks to point out that our parliamentary system is most democratic. Indeed, its rules provide for days allotted to the opposition to enable it to criticize objectively the administration, more specifically the government, for its omissions while the government for its part will surely talk about its accomplishments which, as the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) suggested this afternoon, are normally paid for by Canadian taxpayers.

I was astounded to hear the answer given by the Prime Minister this afternoon to a question asked by my colleague, the hon. member for Champlain (Mr. Matte), concerning loans made to developing or underdeveloped countries. Not only, Mr. Speaker, does the administration as we know it make us pay interest on loans contracted on our behalf but according to the answer given by the Prime Minister we must also pay interest on loans contracted to make gifts to help underdeveloped or developing countries.

I listened attentively to the hon. member who spoke before me. I congratulate him. He spoke very objective words, and I think that is the way one should participate in the debate in this House not only to give the people of this country the impression that we are serious people and we want to give the best administration possible but to prove to them through actions, steps, decisions, that we are really conscious of our responsibilities and we want to solve the problems facing the people of this country, our country. Mr. Speaker, the government on those opposition

[Mr. Martin.]

days expects criticism. Today, December 9, 1975, is an opposition day, and the topic was selected—

[English]

Mr. Crouse: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I am very anxious to hear what the hon. member has to say, but I regret to report that the simultaneous interpretation is not coming through the system. I wonder if it could be checked before the hon. member continues his address.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Mr. Speaker, it is your responsibility to restore—

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner (London East)): Order, please. I believe it is working now.

[Translation]

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Thank you very much. I think the hon. member who has drawn to the attention of the Speaker the fact that he could not hear my remarks. It proves that he is interested in what is said in the House. I congratulate him.

I was saying that the topic selected by the Social Credit Party of Canada today is excellent; the backbenchers should not be offended by my remarks. If we refused to blame the government for its failures, we would be shirking our duty and the people would have the right to judge us severely, because the people have elected 264 members and we do not live under dictatorship in this country. The people of Canada are asked to make a choice and they choose what they want. And when they send us to Parliament they expect us to be of different opinion, to have divergent points of view, but that we will join our effort to administrate our country as well as possible.

Mr. Speaker, for those reasons I support the motion of my colleague, the hon. member of Richmond (Mr. Beau-doin). This motion of no confidence against the government is perfectly justified. In fact, the hon. member described exactly the promises and commitments that the Liberal party made to the people of Canada and did not fulfill entirely. Even if the right hon. Prime Minister, in 1974, during the last elections presented himself to the nation as the only one detaining the magic formula to solve the inflation and unemployment problems created by the credit-debt system he advocates, it was just another electoral promise as since July 8, 1974 the economic situation of our country has been deteriorating and our Canadian dollar has continued to devaluate, the number of unemployed has continued to rise, and we do not know in what direction this government steers our economy.

In 1975, Mr. Speaker, the economic situation looks strangely like that of the year 1926 to 1930 and 1930 to 1939.

Of course, the younger members cannot make the comparison as they were not born at that time. However, at that time, like now, the system was the same and they were many bankruptcies were the order of the day. Like today, banks were empowered to turn the credit tap on or off and they contributed to multiply industrial and business bankruptcies through curtailments and even, in several cases, through a complete withdrawal of credit margins;