

*Anti-Inflation Act*

forward by the government, this ceiling policy which will be, as I said earlier, very painful for low-wage earners. This ceiling, in my opinion, hits low income groups harder than the others. As far as I am concerned, I think that the percentage—this is a suggestion I now make to the government—of salary increase should be higher for low-wage earners and lower for high income groups. Let us keep in mind that consumer prices are the same for a family with a \$6,000 income as for the one with a \$15,000 or \$25,000 income. If we want to achieve a distributive justice, we will necessarily have to take means to that end. The white paper makes no mention at all of lower interest rates. Yet, interest rates at existing levels are one of the major causes of inflation and unemployment.

Yet there is an institution responsible for setting interest rates: the Bank of Canada. However, the distinct impression is that chartered banks are the ones that set interest rates. That form of financial dictatorship was exposed more than 40 years ago by Pope Pius XI in the following words:

In the first place, it is obvious that not only is wealth concentrated in our times but an immense power and despotic economic dictatorship is consolidated in the hands of a few, who often are not owners but only the trustees and managing directors of invested funds which they administer according to their own arbitrary will and pleasure.

This dictatorship is being most forcibly exercised by those who, since they hold the money and completely control it, control credit also and rule the lending of money. Hence, they regulate the flow, so to speak, of the lifeblood whereby the entire economic system lives, and have so firmly in their grasp the soul, as it were, of economic life, that no one can breathe against their will.

Mr. Speaker, the situation has not changed. To the contrary, the power of banks grew tremendously in the last few years, so much as that on January 1, 1974, chartered banks could grant \$57 billion of the nation's credit out of a total money supply of \$62,860 million.

The nation, through the Bank of Canada, has created only \$5,860 million. This is why I say that the monopolies are getting stronger because they now have their own banks and lend money to each other at exorbitant interest rates, which necessarily increases production costs, and, of course, the consumer foots the bill.

Small businesses suffer from such disloyal competition because they cannot fight on an equal basis. Only the strongest and the less scrupulous can survive.

Mr. Speaker, the gross national income has increased considerably in the last few years, except in 1974, which goes to show the material prosperity of our country. This prosperity must be shared with the low income groups. It provides a golden opportunity for democracy, but democracy must take charge and insure that the distribution is equitable and just, otherwise this prosperity will not last much longer.

If, on the other hand, Mr. Speaker, we are generous and open, if we are far-seeing and if we see to it to distribute our wealth fairly and equitably, our country will enjoy great prosperity for a long time.

It is therefore essential that we take unprecedented steps to end abuses, to largely restore material prosperity, to restore the confidence of the millions of Canadian citizens who have been traditionally taught to expect democracy to provide them with opportunities and an ever

[Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse).]

greater security in this world where science brings more and more material wealth to mankind.

Obviously, therefore, it is important for every healthy individual in the country to be productive, for every factory to operate, for business in general to make reasonable profits. But the government of a country does not exist simply for this purpose. It is not enough to make the wheels turn. Governments must lead mankind towards a greater satisfaction. The most basic aim of a democratic government is to help the greatest possible number of citizens, especially those who need it most, to improve their standard of living, to protect their personal freedom as long as they do not harm their neighbours, and to seek the happiness that security as well as recreation and cultural opportunities provide.

Obviously, those who are concerned about the future of our country are aware that the biggest problem Canadians have to solve is poverty within a wealthy country. This problem consists in distributing to the people all necessary goods and services it is possible to produce. I always thought I should take for granted that there is a social answer and that the rational process consists in identifying the problem first, then finding a solution and finally implementing this solution in a practical and sensible way while keeping in mind the basic characteristics of human nature.

Mr. Speaker, may I call it five o'clock?

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner (London East)):** It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the honorable member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom)—Public Service—Suggestion salary increases for executive category approved at same cabinet meeting as control program approved; the honorable member for Edmonton-Strathcona (Mr. Roche)—External Affairs—Sale of nuclear reactor to South Korea—Request for debate prior to signing of agreement; the honorable member for Provencher (Mr. Epp)—Public Service—Suggested denial of right to strike—Government position.

It being five o'clock p.m., the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, private bills.

**Mr. J.-J. Blais (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, there has been agreement among all parties in the House to proceed with order No. 15 and allow a 15-minute debate on it, to be followed by order No. 30, again with a 15-minute debate. At 5.30 the division bells will ring and if it is agreeable, we will, proceed to a vote at that time on both motions in sequence.