

as there is some offsetting factor to increase the over-all competitiveness of the company. Whether that is by allowing the company to put in new modern equipment, which is being done by many companies, or whether it is done on the basis of encouraging additional investment in new plans, all those things are appropriate as long as we respect that we have to work together in what is considered a competitive environment.

The issue of interest rates of course is raised. Imagine having a \$250,000 mortgage or a \$200,000 mortgage, assuming you made a down payment on that house in my riding, and now you are going to have to make payments on it. It is a lot easier to make payments at 12 per cent. It is a lot easier to make payments at 11 per cent, and it is much easier to make them at 10.75 per cent where there are some mortgages available at that rate right now.

Of course the reason I made reference to this is because when the Liberals were in office their attitude was: let it go to 18 per cent, let it go to 20 per cent, let it go to 21 per cent. I know it happened. My mortgage went to those levels. I can comfortably stand here today and say because of actions we took, yes, it hurt when it went to 12 per cent. Yes, it hurt when it went to 14 per cent, but it sure never went to 21 per cent because we took the steps we had to take at the appropriate time to keep that inflation rate from going high, to keep the interest rate from going through the roof, which is the attitude members opposite would have.

I know they are not too concerned about the people out there who have mortgage payments. However, in my riding it is easier to justify 11 per cent mortgages than it ever was for the Liberal member of Parliament at the time when there were 21 per cent mortgages in the area.

That all works into competitiveness. When you do not have to make those huge mortgage payments, the end result of that whole situation is that you need less money to make payments. You can therefore presume to live on an income. It is a little easier than if you had large payments. That whole scenario reflects itself along the line.

That is just another example of how the competitiveness situation fits into it. There are additional examples I could give on the impact on the Canadian economy. Maybe I will follow through with one final area relating to economic development.

Supply

The motion that is presented suggests that we are really not involved in that process. It is true that in my riding there is limited access for people to be involved in economic development programs. We certainly do support some of the things we have going through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, western diversification and even such things as assistance for the farm community.

I have talked about some of the agricultural situations with the information I have. Those are all very positive steps my constituents can support. If the over-all economy of Canada is healthy, not just one little corner, not just the Toronto centre region or the Vancouver centre region, all of us benefit. If the people of Nova Scotia are better consumers because they have more money to spend, hopefully they will be consuming more Canadian products.

That is the process we are involved in. I am convinced the government is on the right track, absolutely contrary to the resolution before the House today.

Mr. Bob Kilger (Stormont—Dundas): Mr. Speaker, I represent a riding the eastern Ontario riding of Stormont—Dundas, which is a mix of urban and agriculture. I do not want to delay the comments. I want to get right to the nuts and bolts of the debate. However, I cannot neglect mentioning that Cornwall, for instance, has an unemployment rate of 15.5 per cent. Over 3,400 people are unemployed. We will not go over the reasons. I understand that it gets repetitious at the end of a debate, and the day is drawing to an end, but I would like to reflect a moment on the member's comments and a very sensitive point with regard to the deficit, as well as the government's ability in terms of what resources it has available to it and what it may want to do to stimulate the economy.

• (1850)

I want to make it abundantly clear to all members of the House that the example I am going to use is that an agreement between the province and the federal government in no way, shape or form should be misconstrued as being a reflection on this one province. It is a good example of what the government has accomplished most recently in a subsidiary agreement between the province of Quebec and the federal government in the area of