

*Price Stability*

should take such actions as would offset any negative effects on the economies of slow growth areas, and which, with additional federal input, would further help the basic problems of regional imbalance of the Canadian economy.

Why did the minister not read that into the record? Those of us who attended some of the meetings as observers noticed that this was the greatest concern to the Premiers of the provinces. The minister conveniently forgot to read that passage into the record. This is what was worrying the representatives of the regional areas, in this case the Premiers. This is what is worrying many of us in this House, both as Canadian citizens and Members of Parliament representing regions. I am greatly concerned about the effect of the government's anti-inflationary program on the people of my constituency in northern Alberta.

Some provinces expressed the view that the federal government must give leadership—

God help us! Where are we going to find this leadership?

—in solving the inflationary situation, and British Columbia and Alberta suggested that the federal government should decrease or eliminate certain taxes, particularly the indirect sales tax and tariffs, to reduce some of the current pressures on prices in Canada.

What indication do we have that the government is seriously contemplating this suggestion?

**Mr. Basford:** Would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Baldwin:** I would be delighted.

**Mr. Basford:** In view of the remarks the hon. member has just made, can he explain why the chief financial critic for the opposition, on the night of the recent budget advocated an increase in some tariffs?

**Mr. Baldwin:** It may well be that the financial critic had something in mind at that time. I am talking about the proposals of the federal-provincial conference which received approval from the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance and to which their signatures are attached. The government is sitting in the driver's seat. They have said to the people of Canada, "Trust us. We will look after you. We will do the things essential to bring you happiness, prosperity and a just society". Why is the minister not attempting to persuade his colleagues who were present at that conference to implement these very specific proposals irrespective of what anyone

[Mr. Baldwin.]

else says? If the colleagues of the minister suggest that, they will have my support and the support of a great many members of this House and people from all over Canada. I continue quoting:

Some first ministers also stressed the importance of ensuring that governments do not over-react to inflation to an extent which could lead to widespread unemployment and recession, particularly since a number of economic indicators already point to the possibility of higher unemployment and slower growth in 1970. A concern was also expressed that emphasis needs to be given to continued and expanded productivity and economic growth.

How much more hypocrisy can this country stand, Mr. Speaker? The Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance said at a formal meeting with the first ministers of the provinces of Canada that this is what the country needs. They said that they believed in this. What do we now see with regard to unemployment? I do not need to go into that. Every day in this House members, particularly in the opposition, plead with the government, pointing with apprehension and alarm to what is happening in their regions and provinces. All they receive is a cold, uncompassionate and calculated indifference from the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance.

For these reasons I have the greatest difficulty in giving any support to this motion which does not promise much for the people of Canada.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. I do not know the disposition of the House, but I am in a position to make a ruling on the amendment of the hon. member for Winnipeg North, unless hon. members prefer me to wait in order that they may argue it procedurally later. I do not want to force any ruling on the House at this time. I am in a position, though, to give my ruling.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** In the hope and confidence that my previous arguments persuaded Your Honour to treat this amendment with more tenderness than the last one, I would agree that Your Honour might give your ruling now.

**Mr. Basford:** May I say, Mr. Speaker, that I was very impressed with the force and cogency of Your Honour's reasons in connection with the first amendment. The second amendment goes much further than the first amendment, and Your Honour's forceful and cogent ruling on that amendment surely applies with double impact to this amendment.