

Interim Supply

right. I will not look at it in the same manner; I want to mention it from another point of view.

It is true that the people are currently alarmed due to the increased cost of living. It is an international phenomenon; it is not limited to Canada and goes beyond our government's capacity. Nevertheless, it is a challenge to the present government and it must be met, as far as Canada is concerned, by extraordinary measures.

I should simply like to mention two consequences which will occur unless the government intervenes with global and spectacular measures.

In my province, Mr. Chairman, there are people who support the separatist movement. Their best argument when they preach their gospel of division is precisely the fact that the cost of living is increasing. They travel about the province telling the farmers: We will separate and settle all that. They tell the workers: You are on strike because you are not paid enough. They go through the entire catalogue of human miseries which are all a result of uncontrolled cost of living, to incite people to vote in support of the separatist ideas. It is a special challenge.

● (2:00 p.m.)

There is another challenge which I may bring up as an independent member. As all members of the house are aware, Canadians of all classes and levels of society are disappointed and disillusioned with their government. The men in public life who are most affected are the members of the two old parties who in turn head the government. The population expects of them a basic program capable of checking the rising cost of living. Governments change but no radical legislation is introduced, or at least that is the impression the people have. Both old parties seem to have about the same economic philosophy. It seems to change with circumstances. I am not saying that governments have done nothing. I admit the Liberal government has passed numerous and very generous pieces of social legislation, but frequently it was done by rule of thumb and without solving the fundamental problem. My colleague from Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) spoke of the establishment and said that financial influence was paralysing both parties.

If this goes on too long, if the government does not take drastic steps to remedy the situation, splinter parties will take the lead and we will wake up with a minority government which will be forced to form a coalition. Will that be good or bad? I do not want to

prejudge. Still, I challenge the present government to roll up its sleeves and face the situation.

The backbenchers were mentioned. Several of them are intelligent, on the move and want to accomplish something. If the backbenchers want to help their party, let them spur it on. I say this constructively. I am not speaking of revolt but I am thinking of the young Turks who wanted at least a moral revolt. So, let them spur their party on and wake them up to the fact that this is 1966, that everything has changed, that the Canadian people are more exacting than ever, that they expect fundamental, drastic steps; otherwise, splinter parties will gain ascendancy over the people and will have to be reckoned with. That would, of course, create problems for the party in power, whether Conservative or Liberal.

I close on those words, pointing out again that the government faces two challenges: that of separatism, of those young people who use the rising cost of living as an argument, and that of the growing splinter parties who offer an alternative—whether good or bad is not for me to judge—to the Canadian electorate.

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, I want to say just a few words to inform the house about an alarming situation that prevails at present in the province of Quebec, more particularly in the field of agriculture.

It has to do with the state of urgency created by the strike of the longshoremen in our national harbours. This morning I tried to point out this situation to the house. To my great astonishment, I heard many objections from Quebec members and yet they should have supported me instead of trying to get me into trouble. For all practical purposes, I could not express my views at that time.

At this stage, I should like to read the telegram I got from a person interested in animal breeding and who foresees the future with pessimism unless action is taken at once. Mr. Chairman, I received the following message from R. O. Blanchard Ltée of Saint-Germain:

Situation alarming re longshoremen strike stop. Thousands of animals in danger of death if strike not settled within 24 hours.

Also, another message from the secretary of Bon Matin Farm Inc. complaining about the danger of this strike if it is not settled or if a solution is not found forthwith.