

problem. The answers are economic, Mr. Speaker, and they relate to the state of the entire economy. It is inconceivable to me that this body can hope to examine the face of the coin and fail to turn it over. Inflation is related to prices and incomes. To look at just one aspect is to perform just half of the task before the committee.

However, given the narrow terms of reference, I suggest that the committee spend no time determining that food prices are high and getting higher. We know this already. Nor should it spend undue time examining the causes of inflation in the food industry. I suggest that causes have been analysed ad nauseam. We on this side of the House, as well as the people of Canada, want a few solutions. We want practical solutions, strong solutions that are capable of legislative implementation.

Such a course of action would receive the unanimous approval of this House and the undying gratitude, including the political gratitude, of the people of Canada. Further, the committee must attempt to profit from the experiences of previous committees studying this subject, if only to know what not to recommend. For instance, the government must now be painfully aware of the fact that it cannot fight rising food prices or rising prices in any other sector of the economy by deliberately encouraging unemployment. They must now be aware that voluntary restraints by one side of the labour-management combination will not be effective.

A prices review board, as suggested by our friends on the left, is not the answer.

Mr. Knight: What is?

Mr. O'Connor: I will come to that. A logical extension of their argument would surely be a wages review board, then an interest review board, then a profit review board and, finally, a review board to review the review boards. We should not resort to the proliferation of government agencies. Direct bureaucratic involvement in our lives should be employed only as a last resort.

The problem must be attacked uniformly throughout all sectors of the economy and must not be left to individual members of individual boards or commissions to adjudicate, perhaps unequally, in individual cases. The problem of food prices faces every single Canadian every single day of his life. The solutions must be applied equally throughout society so that no geographic or economic sector bears the burden of rising prices or, more importantly, bears the burden of the solution to rising prices more than any other sector. The solutions, Mr. Speaker, lie either in a comprehensive short term program of prices and incomes controls or in income tax provisions which eliminate the effect of inflation on the individual consumer.

The first solution, prices and incomes controls, attacks the problem by preventing its happening. The second solution, income tax amendments, relieves the effect of inflation when it occurs. I refer, here, of course, to our party's real income proposal introduced to this House by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) in response to the budget of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) last May. He proposed a simple formula which negated the effect of increases in income tax due to inflation and eliminated the government's vested interest in the infla-

Income Tax Act

tionary spiral. Both of these approaches have been urged by our party over the past year for at least the consideration of the government. Both have been rejected out of hand. Well, the election has very forcefully gained the attention of the government donkey. Perhaps this commission, by examining the proposals I have suggested and others made to it and by making strong and specific recommendations can force the donkey to take a forward step.

As I said at the outset, Mr. Speaker, we in the official opposition are not optimistic. The record of this government in accepting suggestions and recommendations of others is dismal. On the other hand, the silver lining in this grey cloud is the real possibility that by the time the committee reports, Canada will have a new government, one with ideas and initiative which responds positively to the needs of this country.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. It is five o'clock. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order No. 40 to advise the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. Mackay)—Regional Economic Expansion—Request for explanation of disappearance of certain jobs; the hon. member for Northwest Territories (Mr. Firth)—Northern Affairs—Northwest Territories—Maintenance of employment for Indians on clearing of right of way; the hon. member for Rocky Mountain (Mr. Clark)—Youth—Opportunities for Youth Program—Request for indication of criteria for establishment of local selection committees.

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

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, I understand there is agreement in the House for standing items 1 and 2 on the order paper. Will Your Honour, therefore, be kind enough to call the third item listed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

INCOME TAX ACT

AMENDMENT TO ABOLISH INDICTMENT PROCEDURE AND INCREASE TERM OF IMPRISONMENT

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West) moved that Bill C-8, to amend the Income Tax Act (Section 239) be read