

*Increased Cost of Living*

to our economic life, because wheat has been one of the great contributors to the trade patterns of our nation.

The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool made some recommendations. One of them was that an effort should be made to try to bring about a greater stability in price. It also recommended that the Wheat Board's functions be extended to cover the marketing of rapeseed, flaxseed and rye. But there has been no encouragement from the government in that regard. It also recommended some form of labour-management court to reduce the number of costly work stoppages in Canada. The report of the Economic Council of Canada issued today indicates that the government has some responsibility in that regard. I cannot find the exact reference at the moment, but it seems to me that the report agrees with us in the opposition that the government's action on wage settlements has set a pattern which has led to continued labour unrest.

The Saskatchewan Wheat Pool also wanted an assurance that the statutory Crowsnest Pass grain rates will be retained for the west and that seaway tolls will not be increased. It further requested the government to take action to curb inflation, which brings us to the amendment moved by the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam regretting the failure of the government to introduce policies designed to produce an equitable distribution of rising productivity among all groups in this nation.

During the recent election campaign some things were said in this regard. Some things were mentioned that governments could do to attack this problem. There are those who say that promises made during an election campaign are solely election promises to be forgotten once the election is over. I would like to place on record two suggestions made during an election by members of the government then in the opposition and which were repeated during a subsequent session of parliament.

• (8:30 p.m.)

One suggestion was to allow municipal tax assessments as a deductible item for income tax purposes. Another suggestion was a consumers loan act to give urban dwellers the same assistance farmers receive under the Farm Loan Act. I remember also the derision with which members opposite greeted the suggestion from this side of the house that some teeth be put into the law to make sure that the automobile manufacturers receiving the benefit of \$50 million per year would pass that benefit on to the purchasers of automobiles in this country.

[Mr. Nasserden.]

Everyone who has preceded me in this debate, almost without exception, has referred to the lack of opportunity which exists in the maritime provinces and in certain parts of the province of Quebec. Everyone including the Minister of Agriculture, has acknowledged the fact that agriculture is lagging behind other sectors of our economy. This government has been in office now for a period of almost three years. I remember when they said that they had plans pigeonholed to meet emergencies such as the one which faces this nation at this time, but what have they done?

Let me remind hon. members that we are experiencing what has been described as the greatest period of expansion in the history of this nation. I remember well that hon. gentleman now on the government side of the house suggested when on this side that the government should budget for a surplus and not a deficit in order to look after the deficits which occur during leaner times. Those same gentlemen now on that side of the house have failed to provide this surplus during this period of expansion in spite of the proud boasts of their front and backbenchers. Have they forgotten their words of those days when they were in opposition? Have they forgotten the methods they suggested they would employ? Everything was simple according to them, but we are now faced with this difficult situation created by the highest cost of living in the history of this nation and the highest interest rates which have ever existed. We are faced with a tight money policy and a dearth of money for the construction of homes.

The government has not only failed to provide an opportunity for our young people but has sold out their future before they have even left our universities. We now have before us an amendment which states that this house regrets the failure of the government to introduce policies designed to produce an equitable distribution of rising productivity and national income among all groups in Canada. Who in Canada could not agree completely with the words of this amendment?

**Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, the amendment moved by the leader of the New Democratic Party is very interesting. The hon. member who has just taken his seat asked the question, who in this country could not agree with an amendment that is in favour of everything good and against everything bad? I ask, who would not be in favour of all those things which relate to a solution of the problem now facing us? The amendment does not say anything about a solution to