

san way and believe there is one party in this House that is willing to try new ways to tackle new problems.

We say with complete assurance that there is no hope in the policies followed for the past 25 years. Just as other ministers have been destroyed, so is this minister being destroyed by giving the same answers that have been given in this House for the past 25 years by every Minister of Finance when these crises occur. I warn this House this is not just a Canadian or western world crisis. The whole international picture is at stake. The OECD is pleading with us to get our own houses in order, to go to Nairobi, put forward proposals and get at this problem domestically and internationally.

I assure the minister we do not say for certain we have the final answer, but we are seriously and sincerely disturbed over the answers or lack of answers we are getting from this government. We ask that very serious consideration be given to the fact there are alternatives for Canada other than those suggested by the advisers to the minister.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Bell:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. A suggestion was made some time ago that we might further reduce the time of our speeches to 10 minutes. I realize this would be a hardship for some members, but for the sake of the staff, who will be here many hours in view of the lists that are available, at least from this party, it might be in order if Your Honour would try to seek consent for a 10 minute limit.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I will put the question to the House. Is there agreement there should be a 10 minute limit?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** There is not agreement.

**Mr. Max Saltzman (Waterloo-Cambridge):** Mr. Speaker, I know if we gave you enough time, it would come out all right. It is understandable, considering the lateness of the hour. I understand the official opposition was entitled to precedence today in order to introduce their motion dealing with prices. However, one wonders why they bothered since they have so little to contribute to the debate.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Saltzman:** It may be that the role of the official opposition is not only to numb everyone in this House into acquiescence, but to attempt the same thing with the nation. There does not seem to have been anything in the speeches of members of the official opposition to give any indication they have any idea of how to deal with this serious problem of inflation.

I listened to the hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies) for whom I have the highest regard. I say that sincerely. I could not understand whether his logic had left him or mine had left me. I listened to him recite all the countries that had imposed wage and price controls and then suggest that we do the same. When he recited the

### *Cost of Living*

lists of countries, many of which have higher levels of inflation than Canada, I noted that all were countries where program has admittedly failed. After the recital of disasters with wage and price controls in other countries, one would have thought he would have come to the conclusion we should not repeat the errors of others. Instead, he said that since all of them have tried it, and the record shows all have failed, Canada should not be left behind in this record of failure; we should try it. After all, we are a great nation. If everyone else has failed, we have an obligation to fail with this particular mechanism as well.

I also tried to understand the hon. member's reasoning with regard to the level of the Canadian dollar. Does he want the Canadian dollar to go higher? I am not sure what he wants. That probably merits the suggestion that if the Canadian dollar were higher than the American dollar, there would be some diminution of inflation in Canada.

**An hon. Member:** He wants it higher and lower.

**Mr. Saltzman:** Possibly he does. I think it is only fair to point out that the effect of such a move would be to create massive unemployment in Canada. This is particularly sad when one considers that today one of the chief concerns of the official opposition seems to be with the high level of unemployment. A move in the direction suggested by the hon. member for Don Valley would simply increase the level of unemployment.

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I did not think the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) was particularly brilliant when he asked the hon. member for Don Valley what the Conservative party would do about inflation if it were in office, but neither was the reply. It is not good enough to say: We are not the government; we do not have to provide the answers; the answer is: You guys get out and let us in, and everything will be taken care of. I have some doubts about that approach. From time to time there is a question in my mind. I take a look at the government benches and I sometimes wonder whether we should be harder on their occupants than we usually are. The only thing that restrains me from taking precipitate action is the unlikely possibility that we might replace what we have over there with what we can see over here.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Saltzman:** One must admit it is a Procrustean choice. Whatever the faults of the New Democratic Party might be, and, like some people, I do think there are faults in the NDP from time to time—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh!

**Mr. Saltzman:** —I agree it is not very often but one must be fair in these matters—at least when we criticize, and we criticize fairly often and quite strongly, we do at least offer alternative proposals to what the government is doing. The evidence in support of this assertion is that from time to time some of our proposals are accepted by the government, or stolen, depending on which way you look at it.

I want to deal with this question of wage and price control. It did not figure too prominently in the debate