

Cost of Living

managing the economy of this country, not only during the present crisis but since 1965 and 1968? Is it not about time the government realized that we can use monetary and fiscal policies, supplemented by an incomes policy, to bring about the type of economic conditions that would be beneficial to all Canadians?

There is no way that the people of Canada would be prepared to sit back and accept the Liberal party's excuse that nothing can be done about inflation. To take this attitude is wrong by any standard. It has been clearly demonstrated that the Liberal party lacks the ability to lead Canadians in the fight against inflation, and that the Liberal party lacks the ability to lead Canadians in the fight against the high cost of living.

Mr. Baker: Mr. Speaker—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I hope you will not take the 15 minutes of applause which greeted the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) from the time allotted to him.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. La Salle): Order. The hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan) on a point of order.

Mr. J. P. Nowlan (Annapolis Valley): Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

I forgot to mention in my point of order that I wish to compliment you on the decorum you have maintained since you assumed that high position.

Mr. Poulin: Mr. Speaker, I wish to rise on a point of order.

Mr. Baker: Mr. Speaker, that is probably the best speech that the hon. member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Poulin) has ever made.

Mr. Knight: Mr. Speaker, on the same point of order, may I point out to the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton that it is probably the only speech which the hon. member has made.

Mr. Baker: I should like, first, to rise to the defence of the hon. member for Ottawa Centre with respect to the comment that it was his only speech. I think he made two others. However, considering the remarks which he made at the opening of the speech—

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. La Salle): The hon. member for Ottawa-Centre on a point of order.

[*English*]

Mr. Poulin: Mr. Speaker, I rise on the same point of order. Although the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton has learned much, obviously he does not know everything. I have made more than two or three speeches or the

[*Mr. Wise.*]

number he has mentioned. However, the point of order on which I rose this evening was in reference to the colour of the tie of the hon. member for Annapolis Valley (Mr. Nowlan), which is red. His speech made it obvious that he really supports our policy. The fact is that there is not one member on the other side who during this whole day's debate, has been able to offer—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Baker: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to make any comments on the interjection that has just been made beyond saying that I ask the hon. member for Regina-Lake Centre (Mr. Benjamin) to be careful from now on into whose bed he crawls. This afternoon we heard a speech by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) following ten days or so upon a speech made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) which was alleged to outline a program to fight inflation. I think it has been generally held by economists, regardless of their political stripe, that the speech of the Prime Minister on September 4 was barely above the quality of the speech given a few moments ago by the hon. member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Poulin), and was certainly no answer to the critical question of the rising cost of living and the inflation crisis in this country which caused the Speaker of this House—

● (0150)

Mr. Poulin: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Baker) has referred to a speech I made. I did not make any speech. If there is any question of debate, be it here or any other place, there has never been any problem between myself and the hon. member for Grenville-Carleton: I have always won out and will continue to do so.

Mr. Baker: Mr. Speaker, I see that the voice of sweet reason is now sitting beside the hon. member for Ottawa Centre. As I was saying, this crisis of inflation is so bad that the Speaker of this House deemed it advisable, considering all the circumstances, to permit an emergency debate dealing with the cost of living.

The point some of us tend to forget was mentioned by the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald) in his eloquent remarks a few moments ago when he spoke about the people who are behind the statistics released yesterday morning at eight o'clock. He was referring to the people who are really suffering as a result of the ineffectiveness, the ineptitude and the political expediency of the government. The hon. member for Egmont spoke eloquently of young people who are bearing the burden of this situation because they do not have opportunities for work.

Mr. Poulin: Give us your views, Walter.

Mr. Baker: Judging by the interjections from the other side, members on this side are more conscious of the unprotected people in this country, those who do not have economic bargaining power, the disadvantaged and the infirm. They are the people who are behind these statistics. They are the mothers and the fathers who are trying to raise children at a time when their dollar is diminishing in purchasing value.