

The New Democratic Party is aware of that. There are many co-operatives, in western Canada, and there was black market there just like everywhere else.

I recall that at that time I used to buy my butter in a co-operative of Nédelec, in Témiscamingue, in my riding, with ration coupons. I was entitled to one pound per coupon, which was the limit fixed by the government. The price was also fixed, but if I wanted more, I had to pay a little more, without coupon, and I bought as much butter as I wanted. It was a co-operative—not a Steinberg supermarket—that of Nédelec. The same thing happened everywhere else.

Some time later, I used to work in the automotive trade. Tires were controlled by the federal government, through the famous wartime Price and Trade Board. We could buy tires with rationing coupons at a price established by the government. Apart from that, we could get as many tires as we wanted on the black market, at \$10 more per tire than the current price. And tires also used to be sold by co-operatives both in our region and in western Canada.

The price of cars was controlled by the government and established at \$1,500. But if you went to a car dealer, you could get a car without coupon for \$1,000 more than the current price. That is what the NDP would like to see. The hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway would like the government to control prices of certain products only. It would be so much easier to free all consumers from such a terrible bureaucracy. But no, we do not hear anything about the consumer. When we do, we hear: They are paying too much. It is obvious that they are paying too much. But their solution is fantastic. The paradox is the following: Let us control consumer retail prices so they will not go up any more and let us help the farmer and the primary producer to keep them from going bankrupt. They also say: Increase the minimum wage. Increase subsidies to farmers. Increase the aid to wheat growers. Increase old age security pensions, pensions for bureaucrats and other pensions. Increase all that. Have strikes on top of that and then try to control prices. I am telling you, that is a very intelligent solution. To solve what? Nothing.

Mr. Speaker, we regret price increases but we hear from all sides: Let us increase salaries and profits. They center on those who are going to make a profit of 4 or 5 per cent and they say: For those who are earning only 90 cents an hour, let us increase their minimum wage to \$2. They do not say that that is directly included in prices. No, they are not honest enough to say so. We do say so, Mr. Speaker. An increase in minimum wage will not save the consumer and the worker, but rather the national dividend added to their present salary, a dividend which does not go into prices but which comes directly from the Bank of Canada, a financial institution owned by the people of Canada. That is the solution.

Salary increases go into prices and then people shout: Prices have gone up, it is obvious, they are crying for a price increase. When you cry to get it, well, you have to suffer through it. If they do not want to face a logical solution, let us continue to fiddle about as we are doing now.

Mr. Speaker, there is nothing new about the coalition of the old parties to tell people what they should or should

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not buy. This has been going on for years. It was done in wartime and it is still done now. This is why we of the Social Credit Party of Canada are saying: the compensated discount at retail level would definitely solve this problem.

For instance, price increases in the field of raw materials development, price increases for finished products, price increases in the distribution sector are fantastic. A can of tomatoes, corn, beans, salmon or sardines costs today twice as much to produce, thus rising its retail price.

Mr. Speaker, is there a private members' hour?

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps this is a convenient place for the hon. member to interrupt his speech or have his speech interrupted.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform 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)—Finance—Meeting of federal and provincial Finance Ministers—Inquiry as to proposals respecting estate and capital gains taxes; the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Knight)—Grain—Suggested increase in subsidized price of wheat for domestic consumption; the hon. member for Lisgar (Mr. Murta)—Grain—Wheat—Disparity between cost of hopper cars purchased by government and those bought by United States railway.

It being five o'clock p.m., the House will now proceed—

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Your Honour was about to call private members hour, but I believe there have been some discussions as to the possibility of continuing with the debate we have been having this afternoon. May I put it this way. The arrangements today included considering the second reading of Bill C-21 in the name of my colleague, the hon. member for Nanaimo-Cowichan—The Islands (Mr. Douglas). If there could be an understanding that this bill would be called either Thursday or Friday, my friend would be willing not to proceed with it today so that we can carry on with the motion before the House.

Mr. Foster: Mr. Speaker, I believe there would be agreement on this side of the House to that arrangement.

• (1700)

Mr. Bell: Yes, we agree.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I gather that there is agreement. The hon. member for Témiscamingue is recognized to continue his speech.