

*Motion Respecting House Vote*

finance, a former member for Eglinton, when bringing down a budget said that a little bit of inflation is like a drug and, once offered to the economy, the economy craves a great deal more. This government made a mistake about two years ago when it almost doubled the money supply. It injected a great deal of this drug, and since then the economy has craved a great deal more. As a result we have witnessed a galloping inflation.

The Minister of Finance tried to put the brakes on last June and again in November, but on both occasions he was six months late. He has failed miserably as Minister of Finance. The Minister of Trade and Commerce knows full well that if he had been minister of finance he might well have been more in tune with the economy. I am sure he would have been, because he has been with the economy and knows the ups and downs of business economics. Our Minister of Finance has led a sheltered life, most of it as a civil servant. There is a great difference. I believe the Minister of Trade and Commerce would have been in tune with the economic conditions of Canada to a far greater degree. Perhaps then, as has been suggested in a press interview, he could have brought in a balanced budget last year, avoiding the difficulty which has occurred this year. Today we are witnessing a run on the dollar, and I suppose the \$400 million loan is intended to stem the withdrawal of money from Canada by the United States parents of Canadian companies.

Now that the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Olson) has joined the government side of the house he has swallowed the philosophy of that party, but I note that he has not attempted to take part in this debate. Apparently he does not know whether the government should be responsible to the people and to parliament, or whether it should be all superior in the position of a dictatorship. He does not know whether he believes in those righteous principles he advocated when he sat to our far left, or whether he left those principles when he walked across the floor of the house. He must realize that the Liberal government has failed to control the purse strings. If anyone is in doubt about that, I suggest he read the economic council report and the Auditor General's report. If anyone is still in doubt, he should look at our balance of payments program and our agricultural prices, which are at the lowest point for the last ten years. For the first time in something like ten years Canadian wheat

[Mr. Horner (Acadia).]

farmers are operating without an international wheat agreement. Surely someone failed in this regard, and I suggest that "someone" is the Minister of Trade and Commerce, because he alone was responsible to see that the agreement was signed so there would not be an interval during which we would be operating without such an agreement.

Today agricultural prices are down and inflation is increasing. Interest rates are increasing and money is becoming tighter. Why should we vote confidence in this government? One of the prominent businessmen of this country, who came back into politics, is aware at the present time of this government's mismanagement. I am sure that he is disgusted and wants to resign so that he may return to the business scene. I am sure he would not be unhappy about the defeat of this government.

With this very dismal picture of the Canadian economy today, I suggest the only solution is to allow the convention to select a new leader, and then call an election. In this way the people of this country can express their views about the financial mess in which the Canadian economy is now bogged down.

Last night on "W5" the Prime Minister said that he was angry with himself, with his party and with the opposition for manufacturing this crisis. The opposition did not manufacture the crisis. The colleagues of the Prime Minister, supported by the wisdom of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, manufactured the crisis. The Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Turner) has admitted this. When he heard about it in Toronto he said, "I am no longer running for leadership of the country, or the prime ministership of the country; I am running for leadership of the opposition." How true those words were. He realized that he would no longer have the opportunity of running for leadership and prime minister.

**Mr. Turner:** Mr. Speaker—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Horner (Acadia):** Is my time up?

**Mr. Turner:** I am rising on a question of privilege.

**An hon. Member:** You have not been recognized.

**Mr. Turner:** Mr. Speaker, I should like to continue with the quotation of the hon. member—