

Anti-Inflation Act

For example, we have trade associations, labour unions and associations of every colour and creed, one might almost say, in this country. Yet when farmers protect themselves in order to get some return on their investment and keep the family farm going, we get to our feet and scream that the price of food is too high. I suggest that when the chairman of the Food Prices Review Board says that eggs have gone up too much in price during the last year because they have increased 20 per cent—20 per cent of a loss position—she should be enough of an economist to know that the farmers cannot produce on that basis.

Further, I seriously question what is going to happen regarding investment and maintaining business confidence. As we know, profits are to be frozen at last year's level. While business in a sense has been granted a COLA clause which labour has fought for for some time, so that business can pass on direct added costs, I am very concerned over the long term about what is going to happen to business investment if dividends are to be frozen. Let me give the House one example. Credit unions hand out divi-

dends at the end of the year. If the dividend this year is higher than last year, does this mean that this is an excess profit to be entirely taxed away by the government? That is a question to which I have no answer.

On one hand, Canadians today are angry; on the other hand, they are saying to themselves, "We must go along with a policy and program that at least has a chance of working." I think it can work if certain conditions are met. These conditions are, first of all, that the government takes a major step away from its previous performance; we must convince the people of Canada that the government is worthy of leading, and Canadians must follow the government.

May I call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner (London East)): It being six o'clock, this House stands adjourned until two o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

At six o'clock the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.