

comparatively mild questions and interruptions of Senator McCutcheon. And when I heard him rise and make these objections I thought of what was once said by Mr. Churchill: "Let nothing interfere with the rancor and acerbity of public discussion."

Honourable senators, since coming to this chamber I have heard again and again gentlemen arise and emphasize how in this house we must adhere at all times to what I do call "nice Nellyism." I think this is nonsense, utter nonsense. I am a partisan and I hope I shall always have enough integrity not to try to conceal it. I may say I have noticed that those in this house who are most ready to lecture the rest of us on nonpartisanship are the men who, when an opportunity presents itself, are the first to show extreme partisanship.

Now, honourable senators, at this late hour no one should want to delay the lifting of an evil which has been with this country during the past week. I myself have every confidence that the railway unions of this country, with the long tradition of responsibility and Canadianism, will have no hesitation in returning to work when this bill is passed.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary (Carleton): I have no desire, and I confess I doubt if I have the capacity to traverse again the various clauses of this bill, most of which have come to us battle-scarred from the other place; in any event, we in this house are not in a position to dot an "i" or to cross a "t" in this bill. This is a money bill and so it seems to me almost idle to spend time discussing it. Having said that, however, I do not think my position absolves me from the duty of saying that the evil that has been with us this past week may be traced and can only be traced directly to the weakness, to the irresponsibility and to the incompetence of the Government.

Make no mistake about it; that is the verdict of the people of this country at the present time. If you walked up Sparks Street in Ottawa this afternoon and asked the man in the street what he thought about what was happening in Canada this week he would say two things: First, he would say that what has happened in Parliament during this past week has once more succeeded in downgrading Parliament, and, second, he would speak of the incompetence of the Government.

Hon. Mr. Choquette: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. O'Leary (Carleton): There is no doubt about this; that is the public thinking and that thought can be documented fairly well.

This is an inflationary bill. It is a child of inflation. It is produced by an inflation which began in a creeping way in this country a year ago and now has almost reached the galloping stage. What has the Government been doing about it in the meantime? This Government has the great advantage and the great privilege of having as advisers two of the most eminent public servants in any democratic country in the world. I speak of Mr. John Deutsch, Chairman of the Economic Council of Canada, and Mr. Louis Rasminsky, Governor of the Bank of Canada. Again and again over the past year these two men have pointed out to the Government the dangers of inflation. Mr. Deutsch did in the first and second reports of the Economic Council of Canada, and Mr. Rasminsky has done it in his various statements on the Bank of Canada. Yet what happened? Every democratic country in the world, and certainly the United Kingdom and the United States, in meeting this same problem—although not in as striking a way as we are meeting it—adopted guidelines for prices and wages; 3½ per cent in the case of the United Kingdom and about the same amount in the case of the United States. It is true that these guidelines can be exceeded, but their very existence at least showed an awareness by the governments of those countries of the problems which they faced, and at least impressed something on labour, on capital and on management of the gravity of the situation which existed.

What have we had in Canada? We have had a budget a few months ago in which the Minister of Finance admitted there was such a problem and said he would keep his eye on it. Well, how has he been keeping his eye on it? Prices have mounted again and again; they are inflicting grievous hardship upon countless thousands of our people, and all that has been heard so far as the ministry is concerned is the resounding snoring from the treasury benches.

These are facts that can be documented. The failure of this Government to do anything whatsoever about inflation, to try to stem mounting prices, to try to stem inflation so far as deals between management and labour are concerned, is a shocking thing to contemplate.