

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

are claiming, and to urge leaders of the labour movement to go to their members and try to sell this type of program. They have been joined by the press and other news media who have been, to say the least, unenthusiastic about a policy of wage restraint.

I do not believe wage restraint can work. I say to the Minister of Finance—or I would if he were here—and to the government that the only way wage restraint would have a chance of working would be if the government really meant business and were to show the ordinary working people that restraint is for everybody. I think they should start with just the people I have spoken about. The governor of the Bank of Canada recently had his salary increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000 a year. I submit that does not show much restraint.

In 1966 the Deputy Minister of Finance was paid a salary of \$27,000 a year, but he now receives between \$37,000 and \$40,000 a year, which is an increase of at least 37 per cent in less than four years. The chairman of the Prices and Incomes Commission is also paid \$37,000 to \$40,000 a year, which I suggest is substantially more than he made as a professor at the University of British Columbia. I am not suggesting that they are being paid too much; I am simply saying there is not much restraint here.

Looking at self-employed people we see the same pattern. The income of doctors and surgeons in ten years from 1957 to 1967 has increased by 95 per cent to a total in 1967 of \$27,000. The income of engineers and architects in those ten years has increased by 51.6 per cent to over \$22,000. The incomes of lawyers and notaries has gone up on the average by 66.2 per cent, their average income in 1967 being over \$22,000.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I am not suggesting this is too much, but I am simply suggesting that if the government believes in restraint it must demonstrate its belief by demanding equity. If sacrifices have to be made, in other words, I suggest it is unfair and completely wrong for the government to urge restraint and sacrifice by ordinary working people. We have heard a great deal about tremendous increases in wages, the so-called inflationary wage increases that have gone to our supposedly higher paid steel workers and auto workers.

The Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Gray) from Windsor knows how much auto workers earn. Few auto workers or steel workers in

[Mr. Orlikow.]

this country earn more than \$8,000—not a great income but one which enables them to get by at a certain standard of living. If the government believes in restraint, it can demonstrate its belief by saying to people like the directors of the Toronto-Dominion Bank and other captains of industry, "Do not ask for restraint on the part of others. Do not try to stop inflation by putting the blocks to ordinary working people. Instead, let us see you setting an example by showing some restraint." If and when they do that—and I submit they have not yet begun to do it—the leaders of trade unions in this country might be persuaded to go to their members with the kind of appeal the government has been making in recent days.

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister without Portfolio): Mr. Speaker, as the House knows, the government has set up as part of its fight against inflation the Prices and Incomes Commission. The commission has been working to create a program of voluntary restraint on the part of all sectors of the economy as a method of breaking into the inflationary spiral and in this way speeding up the process of stemming the pressures of inflation. In its efforts the commission appears to have taken into account the views of certain labour leaders to the effect that attention be given to restraining rises in prices before looking into ways of restraining wages and salaries.

The commission, therefore, has been working to obtain a consensus from the business community on a formula to limit increases in prices. The leaders of several large business groups have given their support to this concept. Several key companies and key industries have at the request of the government agreed not to put into effect certain price increases at least until March 1.

The Prices and Incomes Commission will hold next week in Ottawa a conference of business leaders to attempt to develop and confirm such a consensus. Once this is done the commission will be able to turn its attention to the role of other sectors. As the hon. member has said, no one suffers more from the effects of inflation than the working man—people in the low-income group. That is why we are calling for the support of all sectors for the efforts of the Prices and Incomes Commission and for the efforts of the government to stem the process of inflation before it does further harm to the Canadian economy.

As the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) said, he was very pleased to hear the remarks