

*Summer Recess*

The great potential of Canada will only be realized if we regain control of our cost structure and become more productive. The result has been an increase in inflation, which is nothing more than a symptom of our demand versus supply dilemma. Inflation should be our main concern. We can reduce our inflation rate if we increase our productivity.

We have all seen how the present government uses its majority to try unilaterally to impose its ill-conceived policies on Canadians. We are seeing strong public reaction now to the government's energy package, its so-called budget, and the constitutional proposals. Why does this government not see fit to use its majority in a constructive way to address the very real and pressing problems of inflation and unemployment?

The Canadian public is not so easily fooled by this government's way of doing things. The present government has been avoiding the real issues for some time. The business community is one of the most important components in our economy. This is one of the first areas the government should look to to help. New innovative programs to help Canadian business grow and compete in Canada and worldwide are desperately needed.

Interest rates in this country are soaring higher than the government's ego, with the prime lending rate now over 19 per cent. It is hard enough these days in business, with all of the government bureaucracy to face, to have to cope with these crippling interest rates. Bankruptcies are at an alarming rate. Initiative is being stifled. People simply cannot afford to take the risk of borrowing money at such high cost. Empty stores and factories are more and more evident as the government's mismanagement is turning Canada's economy into a wasteland.

As each day passes while the government ignores the very real problems faced by Canadians, businesses are closing down and more Canadians are becoming unemployed. People with ideas, initiative and sound business sense are having a difficult time these days due to the state of our economy, caused largely by the lack of sound, long-term policies from this government. I feel that we must solve the very real problems facing Canada at home in order to reach our potential before we go looking for other causes to follow.

Farming is another important part of the Canadian economy. One out of every four Canadians works in a field related to the food and agriculture industry. A healthy and growing agricultural economy helps contribute to a healthy and growing Canadian economy. With record unemployment and inflation in Canada today, the economy needs all the help it can get.

The last budget put forward by the government virtually ignored agriculture. There was no mention of updating valuation day values and allowing rollovers of the sale of farm lands in a registered retirement savings plan. If farmers are not protected against the peculiar capital gains aspect of their industry, then the selling price of farm land could reflect these high potential capital gains and as a result the high start-up costs could be prohibitive to many who would otherwise enter farming.

What about those already in farming? They are affected as much as or more than anyone by the skyrocketing interest rates. Farming today is big time business. Machinery and land costs are very expensive as it is, but to try to pay for them with interest rates as they are going is not a pleasant thought. Canadians can see what is being done, or should I say what is not being done?

Exploration is slowing down in Canada. Drilling rigs are moving to the United States. The oil industry has a multiplier effect in our economy and when exploration and production slow down, industry looks elsewhere and the whole Canadian economy suffers. The longer the government takes to help the industry achieve self-sufficiency in Canada, the more foreign oil will have to be imported at huge cost to our economy. The government has already run up a huge national debt. Where are we going to get the money to pay for this expensive energy policy? More borrowing on international money markets will add to the amount of money Canada has to pay back.

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Energy is a very important aspect of our economy these days. It affects our productivity, our inflation rate, our employment prospects and our real income. We must embark on a major program to increase our domestic supply of oil and alternate energy sources. Unfortunately, our plans to make Canada energy self-sufficient were stymied, at great cost to the energy future of our country.

We are now seeing the disastrous results of the government's energy policy. Canadians are seeing through the packaging of this misguided policy to the harsh reality beneath its surface. Why is it that we are more and more forced to look at what is lurking beneath the surface of government policy? It is because we can no longer trust the government to attack things out front.

Future generations of Canadians will bear the brunt of paying off the huge debt run up by the present government. The government has a responsibility to advocate policies which are in the best interests of Canada and Canadians.

We have a strong blend of heritage and much to be proud of and build for. Our ancestors built this country up with a strong foundation. They suffered hardships and challenges, but they persevered and overcame these various challenges. The present government does our heritage little justice as it turns a blind eye and a deaf ear to our present problems.

The present government does not deal in substance and foundation but, through its shortsighted policies, seems more bent on tearing down this country rather than preserving and building it for the future.

Most parents want to provide better lives for their children than they had for themselves. If a child requires a basic item such as a pair of shoes, they do not substitute a colouring book. The present government tries to give Canadians off-colour policies such as unilateral alterations to our Constitution, against the wishes of most of the provinces and the majority of Canadians, when what Canadians really want are jobs, relief from inflation and high interest rates and a sound energy