

Economic Policies and Unemployment

have looked to other forms of shelter, notably mobile homes in trailer parks. But now the municipalities are reluctant to zone any more land for this type of shelter because of the rural slum image that is created by some. It seems to me that more and more citizens will be forced into this type of accommodation. It is time the government recognized the situation and made more funds available for mobile homes and for the construction of decent parks which would not be rural slums.

It would seem to me, also, that the minister in charge of housing will have to recommend for cabinet consideration some kind of arrangement whereby people who are forced by circumstances, or who desire to seek this type of shelter should not be placed in a position in which they are discriminated against.

I realize the government has numerous calls upon its funds and that it is the government's responsibility to develop its own set of priorities. If there is a shortage of funds for housing, perhaps there are other sources which might be looked into. There is, for example, the New Zealand practice in respect of the capitalization of family allowances for a period of 15 years in order to provide a down payment on a house. After all, one purpose of family allowances is to provide decent accommodation, a decent environment and a decent opportunity for children.

To conclude and summarize, Mr. Speaker, one of the problems is that inflation and unemployment both rise concurrently. I would think this is an indication that the economic policies of the government are not working in the way intended. Secondly, I believe groups which are organized collectively such as doctors, lawyers, trade unionists and even Members of Parliament can resist the worst effects of inflation. The measures this government has adopted hurt those people who are already disadvantaged—the poor, the unskilled and the people who are employed in the government service. These are often people who really need help most. I would suggest that another look at the government's policies is desperately needed before the whole country is plunged into a crisis of social unrest. The government's policies contribute to this social unrest, which has as its root real and basic economic injustice and inequality.

[Translation]

Mr. Rosaire Gendron (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, as we listened to the

[Mr. Rose.]

hon. member who introduced the motion, this morning, his eloquence, the elegance and style of his speech made us almost forget about the substance of what he was saying.

A closer look reveals that the substance of his speech was largely tinted with political partisanship. It may be fair to do so, but it should not be at the expense of those who suffer, who are concerned and who are unemployed.

We cannot make the people forget now the interrelation of our economies, particularly of western economies, and a speaker pointed out earlier that the government was responsible for the fall in the Canadian stock markets.

I am even surprised that he did not suggest we were also responsible for the decline of the market on Wall Street.

An hon. Member: It is climbing up again!

Mr. Gendron: It is a current saying here that when Americans sneeze we catch the flu on this side of the border.

It is a well known fact that this disquieting inflation and unemployment crisis exist at the present time in all western countries. Their main causes, which are also well known, are the international hotbeds of troubles which threaten our planet with a world war.

And everyone at the bottom of his heart wishes that peace be reached as soon as possible, that troops be called back and that we increase the production of consumer goods as well as production equipment, instead of borrowing to produce material to be destroyed overnight and fired at other people. This latter situation creates not only enormous social problems but an inflationary climate which prevents the investing of such funds into production equipment to maintain the economic balance.

We are suffering from these problems in Canada and quite seriously so. We have to realize that inflation is a great evil and that we have no choice but try to find some remedies. Actually, it is the most hypocritical form of taxation, which sometimes is levied on the weakest, whose purchasing power is thus reduced while they have a fixed income.

It is easy enough to say what the trouble is and the opposition has done so loud and clear and at length, but it is remedies that people want and the opposition has not come across too well on that score.