

Cost of Living

credit is 49.2 per cent, the highest of any industrial nation of the western world.

What does this fact say about Canadians? That we are scared? That we will not invest in ourselves? It is time we began to have confidence and courage. But we cannot so long as people across the way will not give encouragement but keep inflation at so high a level that it does not pay anybody to invest in this country. The thing to do is to make our taxation policy such that there is some *raison d'être* for a Canadian to invest in Canada. We also need a complete review of our taxation policies so there is no division between the upper and lower income groups.

● (0400)

When we consider the fact that we provide welfare for people with incomes of less than \$4,000, with the income tax rate being about \$350, how silly can we be as legislators? This really does not make sense. We know what it costs to feed a family but our income tax system is not related to that in any way.

For those who are asking for numbers, the fourth thing a government must do in order to survive—and I am sure this one will not—is revise our taxation policy. The housing situation was described adequately by the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) and I need not remind hon. members about it. In the province of Ontario alone we are going to require one million housing units in the next ten years. At this time, one family in six has inadequate housing as a result of this government raising the interest rates to such a level that the average person cannot buy a home. This government must do two things: it must provide funds for land banks so that building lots will be cheaper and it must provide the money required to put in the services to those building lots. I suggest this is the way to solve the housing problem and the way to bring down interest rates.

In closing, let me just say that while I was on a plane coming from Toronto to Ottawa I amused myself by making up a little limerick which suits this occasion quite adequately. The limerick is this:

The Prime Minister must be put aside,
Like the man who fell down a backhouse and died,
And with Lewis as a lover,
They can follow one another,

And they can both be interred side by side.

Mr. Bill Kempling (Halton-Wentworth): Mr. Speaker, when I put my name up for nomination they did not tell me things would be like this, or that I might be speaking at four o'clock in the morning. Be that as it may, there has been much said today on the subject of inflation; we have heard a great deal from all sides. I must explain that I am in a rather odd position in that the chief heckler of the NDP sits very close to me. I expect he will continue to heckle me, and I accept that.

An hon. Member: We are going to support you.

Mr. Kempling: I see that the hon. member for Sarnia-Lambton (Mr. Cullen) has returned and I appreciate seeing him here. We have heard the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) set forth the position of our party, and others have expanded on our wage and price control

[Mr. Morgan.]

policy. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) gave us his usual statistical reply, most of which we have heard previously.

One of the ridiculous aspects of this debate is the position of the NDP. As one of their members said to me, the NDP is in the best position in that it has power without responsibility. What a statement that is, particularly when they stand before the national press and in this parliament and take credit for any popular position the government adopts, saying they are responsible for this, that and the other policy. Then they admit that they have the best of two worlds, they have power without responsibility. That is the most irresponsible statement I have heard from anyone since coming to this House a short while ago.

We have heard the NDP criticize our incomes policy but we have heard very little from that party except the same old socialist gush they have pumped out over the years.

An hon. Member: Swill.

Mr. Kempling: Yes, whatever you want to call it. Members of the NDP scream, yell and jump up and down in their customary orgy of self-righteousness about the economic management of Canada. The fact is that the policies the NDP recommend would bankrupt this country and cripple the industrial potential of Canada—and they know it. We are in the claws of the Liberals, and the NDP support them. That is where we find ourselves now. Any party that accepts the philosophy that it has power without responsibility is not capable of putting forth any economic plan which would allow Canada to reach its potential.

The NDP represents 16 per cent of the voters of this country, and they have no representation from anywhere east of the Ontario border. They have no representative in parliament from Quebec, no one from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island or Newfoundland, and they have no representative from Alberta. That party represents only four of the ten provinces of Canada. It is a most ridiculous situation in Canada when a handful of members who represent 16 per cent of the people who voted in the last election find themselves in the position of propping up the government which clearly, by example, is incapable of managing the economy of this country. Clearly, the only way to resolve this situation is to dissolve parliament and let the only real judges we have, the people of Canada, decide the issue before us tonight.

The hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Knight) made reference to what he felt would be dire results if an election were called. He felt inflation would get out of hand. We have had all kinds of elections in this country in previous years when prices and conditions were something other than favourable. The election last year was held at a time of very high unemployment. If we followed the hon. member's logic, we would never change the government. I suggest that each government changes as a result of some kind of price situation. So much for the NDP. The members of that party exist in a desert, they are all dried up, they are wandering leaderless. They have so little in the way of policy that they must tag along with the government and take credit for whatever government policy they can hang on to, particularly those they think