

enough to recall the case of Germany after the first world war when inflation ruined that country's economy, and the time in the early twenties when a German housewife had to take a suitcase full of money with her to buy a loaf of bread.

The Canadian people are very apprehensive and they are sensitive to the increasing cost of living. I said that the government has been a partner to this for the past seven years. As a result of the many letters I received from my constituents in 1966, I raised this matter on May 27 of that year. Inflationary tendencies were then taking hold in our economy. I remember that the morning after Mr. Benson had moved that approximately \$450 million be voted out of the consolidated revenue fund for the government's use, I rose in my place and made a lone protest regarding the rise in the cost of living. It is recorded at page 5609 of *Hansard* of May 27, 1966. Although I do not like to quote myself, I beg leave to put on the record a couple of paragraphs from my speech of seven years ago. I said:

First of all, Mr. Chairman, each of us in this country is a consumer. Present-day government policy and the consequent high cost of consumer goods is storming the last bastion of individual hope and the individual right to live within one's means. It is now practically impossible for the head of a family, father or mother, individual or married couple, to make their modest salaries support their families from one pay day to the next.

Prices have skyrocketed all along the line in food, rent, clothing, fuel, transportation, medical bills, insurance, taxes and capital cost of housing both new and used. In this rapid and cruel escalation of costs, this government has been a steady partner. Even its policies glaringly point to that fact. It is readily apparent that its policies support the super corporations which profit from and control our buyers' and consumers' economy.

● (2310)

The picture has steadily worsened following what seems now to be that far-off day in May, 1966. What is the case today? Inflation's trot is now a gallop. Two ensuing governments have done nothing, and the latest Statistics Canada figures show what every Canadian already knows, that inflation is getting out of hand. If the government does not do something about it soon, it will get completely out of hand. The cost of living rose by 1.3 per cent in one month, the highest monthly increase since March, 1951. This is damning evidence of the results of the government's do-nothing policy; and I place equal blame on its partner in what I call this clandestine coalition that governs Canada, the New Democratic Party.

Last month food again led the way with an increase of 3.2 per cent, and the increase in bread prices has yet to be felt. Food costs alone have increased 16 per cent over the past year. Housing went up 5 per cent and transportation went up 1.5 per cent. Increases in home heating oil and gasoline played a significant part in the rise in both these items of family expenditure, housing and transportation.

The patchwork of temporary relief measures will have virtually no effect on the increase in the cost of living. The Trudeau government, coalesced with and kept in power by the NDP, is providing no leadership to Canadians in the fight against inflation. The fight that the fathers and mothers of Canadian families are putting up is further impeded by the bank interest rate increase, the fifth increase since April, announced yesterday by the Bank of

Cost of Living

Canada. And the Trudeau government acquiesces and approves.

I was proud to see my leader bring about and lead this debate today, fighting to provide the kind of leadership that Canada needs by advocating the introduction of a sensible, comprehensive stabilization policy. The question in the minds of the average Canadian family today is: How are we going to bear our load of responsibilities and expense—the federal, provincial and municipal taxes, the cost of food, clothing and housing, and all the necessary expense that goes with making a living to raise and educate a family?

Inflation has also been the ruination of much of our primary industry. Since we are a country of vast natural resources, I say that the government must do something to protect the economy and our primary industries—agriculture, mining, lumbering, the tourist industry and others. The Prime Minister says that he has pegged the price of milk, that is, the retail price of milk through a system of subsidy. But that is only half a measure, because at the same time he should have frozen the price of livestock feed bought by farmers to feed the cows of Canada.

I was proud today to hear my colleague, the hon. member for Kent-Essex (Mr. Danforth), reply to the statement by the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) on this matter. The hon. member for Kent-Essex spoke out on behalf of the dairy farmers of Canada. I made a similar protest in this House on June 6 and I quote my protest of that date:

The price of soybeans and feeds containing this commodity used by farmers for feeding livestock has recently risen faster than the price of gold and beyond any reasonable level. Will the minister please take action to reduce and control the price of this product?

I asked that question of the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs (Mr. Gray). He replied:

Mr. Speaker, parliament has not given me that authority, but I will be happy to discuss the issue with my colleague, the Minister of Agriculture.

I did not get much of an answer to such a pressing and important question. At the present time, members of the government are only interested in sloughing off their responsibilities so they can concentrate on their annual party convention and conference now being held in this capital. They say they are having a policy workshop.

Mr. Speaker, I had an oral question ready for today but because of this more important question of inflation I did not ask it. I will ask it now of the Prime Minister: Will there not be representation at this policy conference from the other wing of their coalition, namely, the New Democratic Party? Since they are dictating the policy of the government here in the House, they might just as well be down at the Liberal convention contributing further to current chaotic conditions under the new Liberalism.

I ask again: Will the Prime Minister not listen? He is always talking about consensus emanating from changing conditions, to which we should respond. I agree with him on the importance of that. Here I wish to quote the *Ottawa Citizen* of Tuesday, which published the results of a poll taken in a neighbouring constituency to mine. The people of that constituency, like the people of my riding of Frontenac-Lennox and Addington, are people of good judgment; they are cautious and circumspect. Out of 5,425