

26(2) may be the key to this question. In any case, I propose to take it under consideration. It would seem to me that if what appears to be a power in clause 26(2) is in conflict with the clause bringing the act into expiry on December 31, 1978, then since the power given under clause 26(2) is not a power to appoint for four years, but for a term "not exceeding four years" it may well be, upon reflection, that clause 26(2) is circumscribed by the later clause 46, the provision regarding expiry of the act. However, I will take the matter under advisement.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

### ANTI-INFLATION ACT

#### MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR RESTRAINT OF PROFIT MARGINS, PRICES, DIVIDENDS AND COMPENSATION

The House resumed, from Tuesday, October 21, consideration of the motion of Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale) that Bill C-73, to provide for the restraint of profit margins, prices, dividends and compensation in Canada, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

● (1520)

**Mr. Ray Hnatyshyn (Saskatoon-Biggar):** Mr. Speaker, the debate on this piece of legislation is certainly one of the most momentous in which I have had the opportunity to participate since coming to parliament. The actual and potential implications of this legislation are great indeed. It is probably the most momentous legislation that has come before this House since the Second World War.

I was rather interested to hear the government House leader today indicate, in response to a question from the floor of the House during the question period, that there is some hope this legislation will, as he termed it, be speeded through. It seems to me that when we are involved in legislation that does have this type of implication for all the people of Canada, there should be the fullest opportunity possible for debate in the House of Commons and parliament. That is what parliament is for, to look through the legislation presented by the government, especially important legislation of this kind, and to consider the ramifications so that we may in fact put through the best possible type of laws.

Let me suggest to the government House leader that if he is in fact sincere and earnest about getting this bill through quickly, he might consider giving some direction to his party whip. I notice that as many members on the government side as on the other side, if not more, have spoken on this piece of legislation. What they have contributed to it, I will leave to the judgment of those who are listening. Nonetheless, many people on the government side have taken part; I think certainly more than from our side. We are not in the process of delaying this legislation. We are trying with all the sincerity and earnestness at our command to bring to the attention of the government some of the pitfalls and shortcomings we see in respect of this particular bill.

### *Anti-Inflation Act*

The other aspect I think I should mention at the outset is that the bill contains provision for the measure to be effective retroactively. That is to say, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in his speech on Thanksgiving Day made it quite clear that this bill was to come into effect on that particular date. I suggest that Thanksgiving Day will have the same sort of infamy, possibly, as Valentine's Day had in another context. I can only say that the Prime Minister affected my digestion at the time he appeared on nationwide television.

The fact is that the Prime Minister should look at this particular legislation with great care and concern. The potential implications of this bill mean the imposition of a system of guidelines that will have application to all Canadians. The Prime Minister in his Thanksgiving Day address made this point very clearly when he stated:

And I am telling you tonight that this program must work, because if it does not, the government may be forced to impose mandatory, comprehensive, all-embracing price and income controls upon every man and woman in Canada.

He reiterated this in the course of remarks he made in western Canada, in Winnipeg and Assiniboia, just yesterday when he used words to the effect that it was his intention and the intention of his government to make sure that these particular guidelines would have universal application to the people of Canada. I suggest this rather thinly-veiled threat states clearly this government's intention in due course to take all steps within its power to intercede in the affairs of everyone in this country in its so-called program of guidelines. The Prime Minister and other government spokesmen continue to refer to guidelines, but I think there can be little doubt that we are entering into a period during which the government will be doing everything possible to impose mandatory controls.

Reference was made again during the question period today to the constitutionality of this legislation. It remains to be brought forward, on the part of the government, precisely how it envisages the introduction of these guidelines so they will have application to every man and woman, according to the Prime Minister, in this country. I think it is particularly incumbent upon the Prime Minister to indicate in clear, unequivocal terms that there is a national emergency and as a consequence we can look to this bill as being absolutely necessary. There has not been, in my estimation—and I hope to develop this—the type of candour that one might have expected from the leader of this country in relation to economic matters and, in particular, in relation to the imposition of controls.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Hnatyshyn:** I do not purport to be any sort of authority on constitutional matters, but I would find it most difficult, if I were in the government's position, to rely upon the advice of constitutional authority in this particular instance. One has to rely on peace, order and good government under our constitution. The government must look very carefully at its future steps and the threat the Prime Minister has made about the imposition of these controls and the other provisions of this bill. The government must look at its constitutional position in this regard.