

their hands when this government brought in a white paper on tax reform—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: —a white paper that I must confess was somewhat more progressive than the law which finally passed this parliament. They were happy to sit back and see the pressure groups in this country hammering away at the government on that white paper while, as I say, they sat smugly warming their hands.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: Don't wash your family linen in public.

Mr. Trudeau: It is a fact, Mr. Speaker, that even as a majority government it took us months and months to get our income tax legislation passed through this House because these people made no gesture to support us on its more progressive measures, those that had first been brought forward in the white paper. I hope that next time we bring in some progressive legislation they will feel it is a good thing to support us, because this time they know that if they do not, they will have to respond to the people immediately rather than wait until later.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: I would say that Canada cannot insulate itself absolutely from the adverse effects of worldwide disruptions in the price and supply of essential commodities, but we can and must ensure—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, there seems to be some disagreement in the NDP caucus between those who were here three years ago and those who arrived only last year. Let them read *Hansard* for that year and see what happened.

Mr. Stanfield: Again, I don't think a family should wash its dirty linen in public.

Mr. Trudeau: As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, all Canadians must share as equitably as possible both the burdens and the benefits resulting from the new economic paradox of our times. To underline the strength of our commitment, may I remind the House that it was a Liberal government that increased pensions and family allowances and tied both to the cost of living. It was a Liberal government that provided subsidies to limit increases in the price of bread and milk. It was a Liberal government that indexed personal income taxes.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Peters: A minority Liberal government.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, the Tory Party sometimes complains about our not listening to some of their suggestions. Surely they should be satisfied—

Mr. Stanfield: Oh, very.

The Address—Mr. Trudeau

Mr. Trudeau: —in view of the fact that the people of Canada in their wisdom decided not to entrust them with the responsibilities of government, and thankful for the fact that the government entrusted with those responsibilities should take the very best ideas from them.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: It was a Liberal government that indexed personal income taxes, that insulated our petroleum—

Mr. Grafftey: A Liberal socialistic coalition government.

An hon. Member: What's next?

Mr. Trudeau: Next, Mr. Speaker, is to inform the members opposite that it was also a Liberal government that insulated our petroleum market from worldwide distortions and—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: —used tariff and other trade policy measures to lower the price of many goods to Canadian consumers. We will not allow the sharpest effects of inflation to fall upon the weakest members of our society. We will not allow corporate profiteers and gougers to pile up unearned windfall profits at the expense of the people of Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, let no one think that a Liberal government, this Liberal government, will not use the considerable power at its command to uphold the public interest in the absence of voluntary restraint on the part of those who otherwise might be tempted to exploit the people of Canada. Perhaps some of the people on the other side will now leave the centre of the road, where they are trying to appeal to their affluent supporters and to academic supporters, and instead support a really liberal-inclined government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, I also find it important to commend those whose performance has been responsible and restrained in this society. I find it appropriate at this time to destroy the myth that the cost of labour has been a dominant factor in contributing to the present inflationary round in Canada. That is not true. It is not the average working man who has exerted excessive upward pressure on prices. Certainly, labour over the past year in Canada has demanded and has received higher wages and better fringe benefits. No one can blame them for that. But the essential consideration is that labour in general has not used its great power in such a way as to impose an unfair economic burden on the rest of society.

Mr. Speaker, I believe in giving credit where credit is due. Inflation is not a new problem. It is the rate of increase which is new. During the past two years an unprecedented round of price increases and shortages of food and industrial raw materials has sent shock-waves throughout the entire world economy.