

Some hon. Members: Continue.

Mr. Gillies: You cannot expect, in a period of inflationary expectation when there is no competitive force operating, to get these prices under control. It will not happen. We must have an incomes policy. I have never heard anything like what the Prime Minister said yesterday about the effects of income policy on low income groups. The only thing I ever heard that was more outrageous was the suggestion that the NDP was not supporting the Carter tax reform. There is not one scintilla of evidence anywhere to suggest that an incomes policy works against people in low income brackets. How can a Prime Minister who presides over a government which has permitted inflation to take 10 per cent away from the people in Canada in the last year oppose an incomes policy on grounds that it is going to hurt low income groups. Such a suggestion is absolutely outrageous.

● (1240)

The fact is that inflation destroys people in the low income brackets. Under inflation, income is not transferred from high income to low income groups; it is transferred from low to high income groups. Inflation destroys the middle class and those in low income brackets, and to try to make a case for some political reason in this country that an incomes policy is going to hurt those in the low incomes brackets is absolutely ludicrous.

Mr. Alexander: It is irresponsible.

Mr. Gillies: It is irresponsible. If we do not have an incomes policy, these people in this country will be terribly hurt. They are being hurt, now.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I must inquire whether there is unanimous consent for the hon. member to continue.

An hon. Member: Two minutes.

Mr. Speaker: I must bring to the attention of the hon. member and of the House that we ought to recognize at least two more speakers between the present time and the time of the vote. Those members would include the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Rondeau) and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald). We are running short of time.

Mr. Gillies: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel very strongly about this issue. In conclusion, I say that we, in this House, cannot allow inflation to increase. We need not allow inflation to increase. We can put policies into effect which will lessen inflation in this country. We are not at the mercy of international whims in this matter. I believe that if members in this House are aware of the plight of their constituents and really want to represent the people of Canada, they will vote in support of the amendment of the Leader of the Opposition.

[Translation]

Mr. Gilbert Rondeau (Shefford): Mr. Speaker, having read and re-read the Speech from the Throne where several pieces of legislation are announced, and in view of that list of measures, we cannot now judge their value because

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we are not yet aware of their content and cannot say whether they will solve Canada's present problems.

I shall limit my remarks to the present economic situation in Canada and not to any measures in particular. I would also like, Mr. Speaker, to support my colleague, the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Fortin) who has moved a sub-amendment in the House, yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, considering the almost utter confusion that now exists in Canada and on account of which all Canadians, and rightly so, do not know where they are going, everyone is asking himself the same question: Where are we going? What is going to happen with the prices rocketing as they do? What is going to happen with the inflation that the government had promised to check? We realize today its deplorable flop. It just poured more oil on that inflation blaze. Socialists look at the present inflation with satisfaction because it places all individuals on an equal footing, that of the poor, because inflation has reduced those who possess to the same position as the dispossessed ones.

Last Sunday evening, I was listening to the right hon. Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Trudeau) on a CBC broadcast, as he was interviewed by a well-known socialist, Mr. André Payette, husband of a CBC employee, and who gets a salary of more than \$75,000 a year. Mr. André Payette asked the right hon. Prime Minister what were his immediate objectives for 1974. The Prime Minister replied that he wanted the removal of social inequalities.

Mr. Speaker, to remove social inequalities in Canada there is no better way than the inflation we know at the present time. With inflation, social disparities will vanish because it will dispossess everybody and there will be no more social inequalities, because everybody will be in the same position, namely among the people dispossessed by the state and possessed by trusts and finance.

That is why the right hon. Prime Minister declared that he could not reduce inflation, first, because he is the servant of those who created inflation and secondly, because he wants equality for all through the removal of social inequalities and that in his opinion, the best way to achieve socialism is to let inflation dispossess everybody.

What will come out of the present energy crisis that was artificially created? To solve it, the federal government will give \$400 million to the multinational corporations that created the artificial crisis.

● (1250)

Under the false pretext of shortages, multinational gas and oil monopolies will make in 1974 the biggest profits in their history while at the same time oil tankers loaded at full capacity cannot unload in the port of New York because tanks are full and because the governments which are at the pay of multinational companies sing the false song of artificial shortages.

What will happen, Mr. Speaker, with our savings which melt like butter in the saucepan of inflation? What will happen with these shortages of various materials which get more and more acute because our production system is eaten away by the cancer of finance and held tight in the tentacles of finance and monopolies? What will happen in April or May when farmers will have to borrow money