

expenditures they have embarked upon, expenditures which make very little sense with respect to improving the lot of the Canadian people. Indeed, it only goes to improve their own lot. We have seen, for example, such expenditures as the opening of Mirabel airport. It cost the taxpayers of this country and the Quebec government—the same taxpayers—\$500,000, and \$20,000 of that was for booze. Visitors did not pay anything at all for it. We have seen other kinds of expenditures by this government which the taxpayers of this country would be very upset about. This is the same government that asks the Canadian people to tighten their belts and to live within their means.

● (1600)

Whether we like it or not, the fact remains that the government has the responsibility for setting a budget and the estimates. I do not know whether this monitoring board is going to examine the budget and the estimates and make public its comments on them, but it is not going to change anything at all. Since I have been a member of the House I have been a member of committees dealing with estimates, and the committee system is so structured that no one can block the passage of the estimates. As a matter of fact, if the estimates do not pass committee by a certain date, they are deemed to have been reported and spent anyway.

There has been no effective control by parliament, through the parliamentary committee system, over the expenditures of government. It seems to me that parliament has had very little effect in terms of braking government expenditure. Therefore, I hold out very little hope that this monitoring board or Anti-Inflation Board, having pontificated upon the government's estimates and budget, will be able to apply the brake. The government is going to go ahead and spend drunkenly what is not theirs, without regard for the people who earn them the money.

An hon. Member: That is always the socialist approach.

Mr. Rodriguez: That is not always the socialist approach, may I say to my hon. friend on my right. We respect the way that a dollar is earned. This has always been the very core of socialist thinking. The gentleman on my right has always been one of those who are loth to have the government interfere in the marketplace. They say that government should keep out of the marketplace. They are prepared to support the Liberals in pushing through this wage and price control bureaucracy that we are creating with an Anti-Inflation Board that has powers exceeding those of the Almighty. These are the guardians of the so-called free enterprise system which, incidentally, has failed miserably, so much so that the government is now rushing in to prop it up with wage and price controls. That is a miserable admission, Madam Speaker, to hear from these great defenders of the mythical free enterprise system and its attendant capitalist approach to the economy.

Be that as it may, we in this party cannot support this motion. As a matter of fact, there is no way we can support the bill or any part of it as it presently stands. We intend to oppose this motion as vigorously as we can.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Is the House ready for the question?

Anti-Inflation Act

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): All those in favour of the said motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): In my opinion the nays have it.

And more than five members having risen:

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): Pursuant to section (11) of Standing Order 75, the recorded division stands deferred. In accordance with the decision reached today, motions Nos. 3, 4 and 5 will be grouped together.

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition) moved:

Motion No. 3.

That Bill C-73, an act to provide for the restraint of profit margins, prices, dividends and compensation in Canada, be amended in sub-clause 26(2) by

(a) striking out line 38 at page 23 and substituting the following therefor:

"behaviour for a term not to extend beyond April 30, 1977"

(b) striking out line 42 at page 23 and substituting the following therefor:

"term not to extend beyond April 30, 1977."

Motion No. 4.

That Bill C-73, an act to provide for the restraint of profit margins, prices, dividends and compensation in Canada, be amended in clause 46 by striking out subclauses (2), (3), (4) and (5) at page 33 and substituting the following therefor:

"(2) This act expires on April 30, 1977, or on such earlier date as may be fixed by proclamation."

Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (Minister of Finance) moved:

Motion No. 5.

That Bill C-73, an act to provide for the restraint of profit margins, prices, dividends and compensation in Canada, be amended in clause 46 by

(a) striking out lines 9 to 11 at page 33 and substituting the following therefor:

"proclamation or a motion for the consideration of the House of Commons that is approved by the House pursuant to subsections (6) and (7) unless, before December 31, 1978 or any earlier date fixed by proclamation or any such motion for the consideration of the House that is so approved by the House, an order in council is made to the effect"

(b) adding the following subclauses immediately after line 40 at page 33:

Procedure where motion filed with Speaker

"(6) Where, at any time after March 31, 1977 and before July 1, 1977, a motion for the consideration of the House of Commons, signed by not less than 50 members of the House, is filed with the Speaker to the effect that this act shall expire on a date before December 31, 1978 that is specified in the motion, the House of Commons shall, within the first fifteen days next after the motion is filed that the House is sitting, in accordance with the rules of the House, take up and consider the motion, and if the motion, with or without amendments, is approved by the House, this act expires on the date that is specified in the motion.