

That the second report of the Special Committee on Trends in Food Prices be not now concurred in, but that it be referred back to the said committee for the purpose of giving reconsideration to the inclusion therein of a recommendation that the Food Prices Review Board be reconstituted with full power to require cancellation or roll back of unjustified price increased wherever it finds them.

If this is not price control, I wonder what it is. It amounts to the same thing. However, it enables them to attack those who make profits. Steinberg Ltd. has increased its profits by 12 per cent; Dominion Stores Ltd has increased its own by 100 per cent; Burns Foods Limited by 25 per 100 and Canada Packers Limited by 35 per cent. Those are huge profits!

Mr. Speaker, the rationale of private enterprise is precisely to make profits. As soon as profits are done away with, personal initiative will disappear. That is clear. It boils down to what I have repeated often: The hon. members of the NDP do not tell us how those profits are used.

When we see buildings go up, whether they be Steinberg's, Chrysler's, Ford's or Dominion Stores', permanent jobs are created. Those companies do not pile up their profits in their bedrooms. The leader of the NDP knows that. Why don't they tell us frankly how those profits are used and whether, if those companies were replaced by the federal government, we would have better results.

I have even heard the chum of the NDP leader, René Lévesque, in Quebec, shout this at us in 1962: Let us nationalize power companies and become masters in our own home. This is what the leader of the NDP says: Let us nationalize, where necessary, to become our own masters, or let us confiscate their profits. It is one and the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, in 1962, René Lévesque shouted over the radio and television: Let us nationalize power companies. He meant Shawinigan Water & Power; Northern Quebec Power in my area; Quebec Power, in the Quebec area. And René Lévesque, leader of the Quebec separatists, told the Quebecers—

Mr. Lewis: He was a Liberal at that time.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): Yes, but before being a Liberal, he was an NDP.

Mr. Lewis: He was a Liberal minister.

Mr. Caouette (Témiscamingue): That is right, a Liberal minister. We see this at all levels. As a matter of fact he was a Socialist NDP and he became a Liberal minister. Today, if we look at the situation in Ottawa, we see that the members of the New Democratic Party are the ones who keep the Liberals in power. What is the difference? The Creditists are watching you dear members of the NDP.

● (1710)

Mr. Speaker, going back to René Lévesque who was saying: The day electricity will be in the hands of the government, all the profits of the big corporations will be available to the population. Your electricity will be less expensive. After 10 years, Mr. Speaker, have a look at the rates for electricity in the province of Quebec. We pay four

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times more after 10 years than we did under private enterprise 10 years ago.

This is what happens with Crown corporations and government control, this is what we come up with when we do away with the "motor" of private enterprise and of the personal initiative that profit brings about. If the purpose of profit was only to crush or choke people, I would go along. But these profits are used for investment, expansion and consequently for the development of the economy. Nothing is said about this, we hear only about profits so that the population will be impressed. The Socialists then say: down with private enterprise, let the government control everything.

Each time the government took something under control, it was a complete flop. There have been many flops in Saskatchewan during twenty years of CCF administration. Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan has maintained itself with federal credits here during many years, not with CCF credits in Saskatchewan.

Consumer prices are rapidly increasing. It must be admitted however, the solution is not that which is being advocated by the members of the NDP.

The other day, the government put forth a solution concerning milk products by giving consumers a discount of 5 cents on a quart of milk. For 40 years we have been urging, let us subsidize consumers rather than producers. If the consumer has the required credit to buy, the producer will be financed through consumption. That is normal. But let us not try to finance consumption through production; it would be walking on one's hands rather than one's feet.

Mr. Speaker, the same thing will happen with bread. We are not the only ones to suggest that. Three weeks ago, on August 27, the Chairman of the Food Prices Review Board, Mrs. Plumtre, was reported in *Le Devoir* of August 27 as saying, and I quote:

Mrs. Plumtre urges consumers to protest to their members of Parliament.

The Chairman of the Food Prices Review Board, Mrs. Beryl Plumtre, has a piece of advice for consumers aggravated by rising prices: "Complain to your members of Parliament," she recommended yesterday on the CTV national network.

Interviewed on the program Question Period, Mrs. Plumtre insisted on the fact that the powers of the board are strictly limited to making recommendations to the government.

It is quite clear; the government of Canada cannot be appointed to the board.

"When I accepted the position, she explained, I specified that I would report first to the public, then to the government." Consumers, Mrs. Plumtre continued, should complain to their members of Parliament about rising prices and make it known to them that if they do not do anything about that situation they will not be reelected.

"Members of Parliament are very sensitive to public opinion and it is up to the voters to push them in the back. MPs are in a very bad position".

Newspapers, radio and television, added the Chairman of the Food Prices Review Board, have also an important part to play: it rests with them to make the people aware of this increase in prices and to rally the Canadian people so that they protest to the government about the increase in the price of bread for instance.