

Canadian Economy

There has to be some trade off between the move toward equality and efficiency. It is probable that the best economic solution will be the best social solution. We must have a government that clearly sets goals in that direction, goals we all understand and can work toward attaining. Our pyromaniac Prime Minister having ignited the inferno, now asks us to help dampen the fires of inflation. I do not oppose the fight against inflation, but I do oppose rules and regulations that will throttle our economy and stifle initiative.

Mrs. Simma Holt (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the hon. member for Richmond (Mr. Beaudoin), and I want to say to members opposite that jealousy is a very destructive emotion. Anyone can tell another that he is a poor leader or can criticize a leader, when the critic himself or herself will never have to prove that he or she will ever have to lead.

Anyone can tell us what is absolutely right after the event. That is easy. But who is there in this extremely complex society who can be sure of what is absolute, or whether there is an absolutely right way to resolve the human conundrums? There are many ways to cope with human problems. No doubt there will be solutions that are partially right and partially wrong, but never absolutely right.

There has never been a time in history when our society has been more complex, more crowded, demanding, complaining, worried, and more clearly heard by the leaders of Canada today. In the past, much might have happened. There were wars and there was frustration, hatred and violence, but we did not know because it did not come into our living rooms.

Money today is the measure of success, but remarkably those who have money are greedy to take more. Nationalism is the curse of an immature segment of our society, over-impressed with their false sense of limitless wealth and super worth. These are the problems we face today. Money has become the measure of our success, and greed is the mark of those who never know when they have achieved that success. As a result we are chasing our tail in society trying to find ourselves.

It is in this atmosphere that we must have leaders, and we have them. This is a society where there is a psychic depression greater than even the economic depression. People live in fear and desperation. Worry is worse than the event itself when it happens. Even in affluence we have a large group of professional beggars, people who cry even when they are rich. Crime is so commonplace that we barely get over the tidal wave of one disaster when a new one is floating over us.

That is the kind of society in which you expect leadership. Society is getting leadership. There can be no absolute perfection because there is no absolute in human life. We all want peace. We all want prosperity. The children of the drug and bead cult cried out for peace and love. Every generation wants those two situations. They are the most difficult dreams to achieve since they both require the ultimate in unselfishness.

I could go on, but I want to talk about leadership. I would like to talk about the world we live in, but you people took too much of my time.

[Mr. Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek).]

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. Holt: We have a leader. You voted with us once and I thought that was magnificent. You were right, as our leader was right, because the opinion count the other night said we were right.

The court of final resort is the people. The court will be heard in due time as it was heard on that most important issue of our time, inflation. The attack on inflation was rightly timed, planned, and carried out. The people have spoken. They are the most important.

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald) is one of the leaders of whom we can be proud. The member on the side of the angels voted with us. Sixty-one per cent of Canadians favour our anti-inflation program. Only 22 per cent opposed it, probably NDP and Conservative, and 14 per cent remained silent.

Our Postmaster General (Mr. Mackasey) has done an excellent job for this country. He knows about the democratic process of collective bargaining. He knows that collective bargaining is a sacred trust.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mrs. Holt: Come on you guys, give a girl a chance!

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Holt: The Postmaster General is a trade unionist at heart. How much more difficult for him. He knows better than you and the people at the top.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

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Mrs. Holt: They are not speaking for the rank and file of the trade unions. They are speaking for the elitists who would destroy Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Holt: I am still trying to tell you how great the Postmaster General is. He wanted a free vote for the rank and file, but members over there fought it down. It is democracy to give a free vote to the union membership. That is what I would want to see.

Now I come to our Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford). Our Minister of Justice knows what is happening in the country. What is happening in British Columbia will spread across the country. The crime rate is tremendous. The minister is listening to the people. He has brought in sound reforms. He is working on them, and his record in the past in other portfolios has been magnificent.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mrs. Holt: Our new Minister of Energy—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: What about the Whip?

Mrs. Holt: Our Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) has a most complex portfolio in terrible times. He doesn't want Canadians to use their energy