

tional reform. I believe in this country from the bottom of my heart, but perhaps the constitution ought to be taken apart, examined closely and perhaps altered a bit. My part of the world could have been considered a colony 100 years ago, but now it is a viable economic entity of its own. The people there feel that the ground rules may well need to be changed somewhat in the second 100 years of their participation in confederation. Theirs are legitimate hopes and aspirations.

Knowing that the fight against inflation will take a long time, I was personally disappointed that the Minister of Finance could not see his way to adding something for our older people by way of old age supplements.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Hear, hear.

Mr. Osler: I still hope we can persuade him to do so. By saying that, I am not suggesting he is not genuinely attempting to fight inflation and that this government is not genuinely attempting to overcome the problems of regional disparity. I, therefore, suggest that it is too bad this motion was brought before the House in its present form, because it smacks of politics when dealing with a very serious matter that a lot of people are thinking about a lot of the time. They are thinking about it as seriously as they can.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. member will permit a question?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. A question cannot be asked of the hon. member at the present time unless there is unanimous consent. The hon. member has gone beyond his time. Is there agreement?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): Mr. Speaker, I listened very intently to the hon. member and tried to discover something worth while in his speech. He mentioned something about unemployment. May I ask the hon. gentleman whether he thinks the government feels that unemployment is just a dirty rumour started by a lot of people who are out of work?

Mr. Osler: Mr. Speaker, I am glad the hon. member asked that question, because it is obvious he did not pay much attention to me. I used facts and figures ad nauseam. I do not like using them but I used them ad nauseam to illustrate that we have a very serious unemployment situation that, to my mind, is

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unacceptable. We have had it for too many years and there must be great stress in cleaning up this unemployment permanently so that our people are not put into that position again. I was trying to say that our problems of lasting unemployment are not the same as the problems involved with the question of inflation. I felt it was somewhat naive to refer to the two matters together in one motion.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Speaker: Before the next participant in the debate is recognized, may I take this opportunity to make an announcement to the House that, according to the Standing Orders, ought to have been made a little earlier. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow)—Indian Affairs—discontinuance of school lunch program; the hon. member for Simcoe North (Mr. Rynard)—Pollution—air—establishment of national scientific centre; the hon. member for Elgin (Mr. Stafford)—Administration of justice—suggested salary increase for federally appointed judges.

● (5:30 p.m.)

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 58—CREATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BY ANTI-INFLATION POLICIES

[Translation]

Hon. Théogène Ricard (Saint-Hyacinthe): Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of the present debate, the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) introduced the following motion:

That this House condemns the government's arrogant acceptance of recession-level unemployment in slow-growth areas of Canada and cost-of-living hardships generally while dogmatically continuing discredited policies that have failed to put the national economy on a non-inflationary upward course.

Mr. Speaker, as the representative in the House of an area where unemployment exists on a permanent basis, partly because of the stubbornness of the Minister of Regional Eco-