

Interim Supply

commerce. We have a sagging economy. All Canadian business knows it and the lack of confidence in our government—

The Acting Chairman (Mr. McCleave): Order. There seem to be several other debates intervening during the speech of the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam.

Mr. Webb: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, did I understand the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam to say that the communists were proposing this?

The Acting Chairman (Mr. McCleave): Order. The words of the hon. member for Hastings-Frontenac do not indicate a point of order.

Mr. Regier: I should like to point out to the hon. member who has just risen on a point of order that there is a considerable difference between economists and communists but maybe he does not realize the difference between these two types of people. We contend that not only have we a sagging economy but that the taxation policies of the government are—I cannot think of a better word—plain stupid.

Mr. Walker: What was that again?

Mr. Regier: S-t-u-p-i-d, simply stupid. That is a very good interpretation of the policies of this government.

Mr. Walker: What does your tie represent, son?

Mr. Regier: My tie is red and I hope it will remain red for as long as I live. Red is the colour of reform, the colour of revolt.

Mr. Benidickson: Liberalism.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): The Liberal colour.

Mr. Regier: I hope I will never be found wearing a blue tie which means reaction and a do-nothing approach.

Mr. Walker: Your assistant from Essex East agrees with you.

Mr. Regier: I say that the taxation policies of the government are simply stupid. This government, like the ostrich, is burying its head in the sand with respect to policies on foreign trade.

Mr. Walker: What was that?

Mr. Regier: They are going around the world with a big club over their shoulders. They are now attempting to brow-beat even the government of the United Kingdom. I notice that their henchman, the *Ottawa Journal*, had an editorial the other day appealing to the government to please use a very big club on the United Kingdom—

Mr. Walker: I would like them to use it on you.

Mr. Regier: —to prevent the United Kingdom from joining the common market. We say that this government ought to wake up and realize that there are economic and trade blocs being formed all over the world. If we insist on burying our heads in the sand we will be left out in the cold. We will indeed have been found to have left all our eggs in one basket.

Mr. Walker: Take your head out of the sand, then.

Mr. Regier: I appreciate the interruptions of the Minister of Public Works.

Mr. Walker: I am glad you do.

Mr. Regier: I think he is a very brilliant man.

Mr. Walker: Thank you.

Mr. Regier: I also know he only got into this house on the bandwagon and I believe he will go out when that bandwagon has been thoroughly discredited.

Mr. Walker: Speak for yourself.

Mr. Regier: I believe that this government has reached a new low in its relationships with other levels of government. I believe that this government's activities are a disgrace to the concept of our desire to celebrate, before very long, our 100th anniversary as a nation.

I believe that this government has led us to a position where we have an unprecedented level of national debt. An unprecedented percentage of the national income now has to go to pay the annual interest charges on our national debt. We know that we have unprecedented levels of unemployment in this country. We are miles behind most modern nations in our social security. Our nation has become a happy hunting ground for monopoly interests and, despite our Combines Investigation Act, Imperial Oil announced the other day, with all the effrontery at their command, that the retail price of gasoline in Ontario and Quebec is going to be increased by one cent per gallon. At the same time, Imperial Oil in British Columbia attacks me in newspaper articles claiming that they have nothing whatever to do with the establishment of retail prices of gasoline. Hon. members of this committee know that the day before yesterday our newspapers carried a dispatch indicating that Imperial Oil was increasing the retail price of gasoline in Ontario and Quebec by one cent per gallon.