

*Increased Cost of Living*

the hon. member because I realized the appalling dilemma facing him, the conflict he had between fulfilling his appointed task of what in my youth they called carrying the bucket for the government and the necessity of expressing support for the ideas contained in the amendment of the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam (Mr. Douglas): I have no quarrel with the hon. member for Medicine Hat (Mr. Olson) if he likes the role of water-boy or, shall we say, of Gunga Din to the government. But I take strong exception to the hon. member's misrepresentation of the terms of reference and work being done by a committee of which, like himself, I was a member until I had to leave to attend another committee.

At no time has the committee on consumer prices and cost of living been discussing the question of distribution of income. In no place in the committee's terms of reference will you find that it has been asked to do so. To pretend, as the hon. member did last night, that the matter of maldistribution of income has been referred to a committee of this house and is being discussed there is, to my mind, the grossest misrepresentation.

**Mr. Olson:** The rising cost of living is in this resolution.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** It merely says "particularly in view of the rising cost of living". It says nothing about the terms of reference of the committee. The committee had nothing to do with distribution of income. At no time while I was there and at no time since then, from what I have been told, has the question of income distribution been produced for discussion.

There are other remarks of the hon. member for Medicine Hat to which I take exception. And here, let me say, that I do not believe even the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Cashin) would for a moment suggest that in Canada, under our present economy, there is a direct connection between effort and reward. I suggest to the hon. member that he should examine the matter about which he was so contemptuous yesterday. He was contemptuous when I asked the question in the house about the skulduggery, or whatever it is, that brings about the freezing of creditors' claims against the Prudential Finance Corporation. Is this how you get rewards for effort, for the effort of making the best of your neighbour's troubles and taking advantage of your neighbours? Is that what the hon. member meant by effort, because

[Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

then, certainly, such efforts are rewarded in our economy.

The hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Woolliams) suggests that this is an extreme case. I am sure that the gentleman with whom I deal in the committee on which I sat today would not take it amiss were I to suggest that some rewards in our society are granted for a very minor effort that is sometimes of dubious social value.

I recall the other day, when I was lunching with four leading figures of the Canadian banking world, telling them that I was in a very bad way. The Liberal party involved with the Mafia; the Conservative party had been involved with Gerda, but I was in worse shape than anybody. I was involved with the temple of Mammon.

**Mr. Woolliams:** I can say something about that.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** I am sure you can. I have never known an occasion when the hon. member could not give an opinion, whether he knew anything about the subject or not.

I wish to deal with, shall I say, a more legitimate defender of the Liberal party, the hon. member for St. John's West. In the first place, I wish to reciprocate the kind remarks he made yesterday, perhaps with his tongue in cheek. I have considerable affection for this young man. I have always had a soft spot for ebullient and boisterous children, having raised four children myself who now, with the march of time, have become middle aged parents rearing another generation of ebullient and boisterous children. They never miss the opportunity to teach their grandfather to suck eggs. I have learned to combat them effectively. I have thought to myself that, after all, even the most ebullient and boisterous children grow up. But since last night and this afternoon, I have entertained some doubts whether this is always so.

**An hon. Member:** They may be arrested.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Yes, their development may be arrested. I was amused to find that the young member for St. John's West appeared to equate the minority group to which he belongs in this house, with the parliament of Canada when he suggested that the leader of my party had mounted an attack on the institution of parliament itself. We have not yet come to the sorry pass in Canada where the beleaguered and discredited Liberal party, a minority group in