

mortgage over 40 years. This is a field in which the government can do something to reduce interest rates if it wishes. All would agree this matter must be attended to immediately because we are arriving at a situation where housing for young people with a view to ownership in their lifetime is almost an impossibility.

When we talk about food we are really talking about a limited number of basic foods. Few people in Canada would not agree that the public is being gouged by the food chains and processors in the price of basic food, and that action must be taken to stop this. There has been a great deal of argument about what that action should be. I suggest that nationalizing the food chains in this country may not be a bad idea. It may be much more sensible for the CDC to put its money into Dominion Stores, Safeways, Loblaws and other chains making as much as 200 per cent profit compared with six months ago, than to put its money into Texasgulf, where to my knowledge that kind of profit is not being made.

It must be apparent to most hon. members that the discussion today indicates there is no consensus regarding what must be done. We have had a collection of ideas about the problems facing us today. Most hon. members would agree there should be a budget very shortly and that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) must solve some of these problems. There are few who would not agree with the former minister of northern affairs, the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton), who said that one solution would be to eliminate the advisers who have held their positions for 20 years and have given bad advice during that time. To replace them would take some time.

Therefore, I strongly urge that if this debate has taught us anything, it has taught us that we are contemplating our navels in this place. We are not really speaking for those we represent when we say that now is the time for an election, that now is the time to roll back prices and to do this or that. Now is the time for us to go home, meet our constituents and give the civil service time to put into legislative form some of the proposals made in this debate which warrant consideration. Then in two or three weeks we can—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order, please. Is the hon. member for Peel South (Mr. Blenkarn) rising on a point of order?

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Would the hon. member permit a question, Mr. Speaker?

**Mr. Peters:** Sure.

**Mr. Blenkarn:** Is it the opinion of the NDP that we serve no purpose in this House and should adjourn so the NDP can have a holiday, or will the NDP stay and demand that this government produce some legislation?

**Mr. Peters:** The answer should be very clear. I am prepared to stay here till whatever time the House adjourns. Others in my party feel the same way. Many suggestions have been made in this debate. I think the hon. member would agree that if the Leader of the Opposition were to form the government tomorrow, he would not be so foolish as to suggest that the very next day he would

be able to implement legislation. There would be a time lag before legislation was available.

The hon. member heard the acting House leader read off a list of legislative items that have been kicking around for a long time, and if he thinks we should spend the next two or three weeks dealing with them, plus capital punishment, then I am prepared to be here. But I suggest there must be a better way of doing business in this House. We have made a number of suggestions to the country which we put forward as solutions to the problems facing us.

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If these suggestions are accepted by the government, the civil service will need some time to draft the appropriate legislation. If the government feels it has legislation in the fields we have been discussing, including the cost of living, interest rates and other areas of increasing costs which are spiralling in Canada today, we are prepared to deal with it. If it is felt that the civil servants are prepared to draft that legislation immediately, by all means I suggest that we get on with that legislation. If that is not the case, I think it would be to the advantage of all hon. members and the government to have legislation in these fields prepared. This will not be possible if we sit here and continue to outline our solutions to these problems. I strongly urge hon. members to forget this business of calling an election. Our real interest lies in solving our problems of today.

This government was elected by the people. They have made a choice. In the 16 years I have been here, they have not made the choice that I would like, but I want to see that those people in my constituency who elected me get the best legislation possible. This has been a long session and we have yet to see adequate legislation in those fields covered by our debate tonight. We have heard suggestions made from all corners of the House. I think hon. members should take a sober second look at what they are asking, and make a clear decision as to whether they want legislation to solve our problems, or whether they want an election. If we want an election, reason will not prevail and conditions will not improve. There are many members of this House who sincerely believe legislation can be drafted which will go a long way toward solving some of our problems. These problems are not insurmountable. Some members believe they may be doing our civil servants a favour by giving them two or three weeks within which they may be able to bring forth the type of legislation needed.

**Mr. Frank Hamilton (Swift Current-Maple Creek):** Mr. Speaker, as I rise to take part in this emergency debate, I see that the time is getting on toward three o'clock in the morning. I am pleased to note there are still some interested and charming spectators in the gallery.

I listened very carefully to the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) contribute to this debate, and I have come to the conclusion that the language he has used is incomprehensible to the ordinary citizen. It is time to demystify some of his high-sounding financial phrases, as they mean nothing to the ordinary, honest, dedicated person in this country. The minister's proposals are calculated to sweeten the mood of the people, but it is doubtful if they will do this, let alone do what is really needed.