

Interest Rate Policy

not a member of this government who announced today that pork producers would receive substantial amounts of money to help them meet their costs? This government has taken all sorts of measures to offset these high interest rates and thus to aid those who need help the most and not the multinationals whose case the hon. member for Oshawa (Mr. Broadbent) is now arguing.

I remember that last year I called that party a non-development party and I still hold that to be so. I think that the reason why the leader of the New Democratic Party is paying so much attention to underdeveloped countries is that he is realizing that the policies he wants to apply here are already being applied over there. Maybe that is his basic problem. Because above all, this so-called socialist party has overlooked a very important segment of our population which belongs to the future of this country, and I am referring to our young people who do not own homes, or cars, who often do not have any money in the bank, who cannot borrow, who have to face serious difficulties. These socialists have forgotten that these young people need to have sugar, bread, milk, and butter. They need imported oranges, imported salt and many imported goods for the daily necessities of life. If the Canadian dollar loses value, who will bear the brunt? Young people, the handicapped and people on welfare. If this is what members of the New Democratic Party want, let them say so. Let them say publicly to all Canadians: "We want to help the multinationals, the borrowers, we don't want to help those people who cannot afford to borrow. We don't care if interest rates are higher, in other words, if the Canadian dollar is weaker and prices higher. Such is not our concern.

Well, I for one, say as a member of a party that for years has been defining itself as the party of economic liberalism, as the party of individual liberties and defence of the individual, I say that the individual who cannot afford to borrow deserves more help than the one that can. That is essential to the future of our country because if our young people who are now confronted with unemployment-related problems cannot afford or have to pay too high a price for essentials, we are going to experience major problems in this country such as some other countries are presently going through.

In the same line of thought, I think that those who would like to make Canadians believe this government and preceding Liberal governments have not tried to help Canadian workers improve their lot, are simply distorting the facts and misleading the Canadian people. What is the result of all the work that has been accomplished? As I was saying, in this country people own more goods than anywhere else in the world. Some Canadians now reap the benefits of our forefathers' toil. We the young people, we who are 30 years old and over, 30 to 55 or even 60 years old can enjoy many luxuries. We own houses, cars, summer cottages, TV sets. Many of us take trips, own expensive fur coats and jewelry. Not all countries in the world

have been able to provide so much for their people. Granted, today we have to make sacrifices.

I heard the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) suggest a miracle solution, an amendment. I worked it out quickly, Mr. Speaker, and came to the conclusion that the amendment of the hon. member would cost \$3 billion to the Canadian taxpayers who would be affected. Considering the fact that this extraordinary suggestion comes from the party that has been condemning the government for a whole year now for spending too much, for wanting to spend too much, that has been asking the government to cut down expenditures, I feel that this is asking for more inflation; this amendment would dig into everyone's pocket directly, because even the person who receives unemployment insurance benefits pays income tax. In other words, everyone is affected.

Mr. Speaker, personally, I do not believe in miracle solutions. However, there are solutions and this government applies them. Is it not in Canada that people pay less for energy? Yes, indeed, it is. Is it not in Canada that people have access to more goods? Yes, indeed. Are not Canadians the ones who travel the most around the world? Yes, again. In that context, how can anyone accuse the government of not doing its job? Is it not in Canada that the gross national product has increased by 8 per cent over the last three months, and that on a yearly basis? Yes, we are talking again of Canada. Tell me of another country which does as much, even a socialist country such as Yugoslavia, the U.S.S.R. or any other, whose broad general policies may be based on state control. There is not one. Is it not Canada with a population of 26 million which feeds hundred millions of people throughout the world? Yes, it is Canada. Is it not a fact that the wheat produced by western farmers who seem now to have difficulty borrowing money is sold five years in advance? Is it not true? Yes it is. Those are the parties, Mr. Speaker, which come up with miracle answers. Where would those miracle answers take us? Nowhere. Another \$3 billion in loans or a dollar dropping to 70 or 75 cents, this is left to one's imagination. And who will foot the bill? The small wage-earner who is earning nothing or next to nothing. The government in power has assumed its responsibilities. It has reduced unemployment by 0.7 per cent and increased the gross national product from 4 to 6 per cent over last year. What more can we ask? I think that the government is doing its duty and those who are blaming it are doing so because they lack the necessary imagination to bring positive input into this debate to help Canadians.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, there is one fact that I should like to emphasize: the miracle workers in this country have never built anything, contrary to the patient men who have taken advantage of economic circumstances to liberate our people and help those who needed help. In this context, the government of Canada is indeed assuming its responsibilities when it asks Canadians who can afford to borrow to pay a little more for a year or two perhaps while protecting those in