the reason that there is a steady incline in the cost of living, is to be found in the monetary policy that has been pursued by the government and their predecessors. Excuses are not enough. We must ask them to determine what financial policy they are desirous of pursuing in order to check inflation and the rise in the cost of living.

During the course of the debate one or two speakers on this side of the house mentioned the fact that people who cash bonds today do not receive the full value of those bonds. I believe it was the leader of the C.C.F., the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggar (Mr. Coldwell), who gave an illustration of a young woman who found it necessary to cash some of her bonds, and who did not receive full value for them. I believe the excuse was that perhaps she cashed them before they came due, and therefore had to take a discount. This illustration was used on more than one occasion. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) immediately replied that during the war years when we were floating those bond issues he promised that they would always be worth one hundred cents on the dollar. Well, that is a fine statement to make, and I suppose the minister is technically correct when he says that when those bonds mature the holder will be paid one hundred cents on the dollar. The more important point has been overlooked, and that is the fact that when the bonds are cashed, even though one might receive one hundred cents on the dollar, the one hundred cents only goes half as far in purchasing power as it did when the bonds were bought. We cannot lose sight of that point. The reason our dollar is only valued at half what it was several years ago is the result of government policy, and the government cannot pass the buck by saying these things just happen.

As a further point may I say, and this is another point which no one mentioned, perhaps owing to the fact hon. members are not too well informed on the matter, that when people cash their bonds today with the chartered banks, the chartered banks make a new issue of money in payment for those bonds. The result is that there is that much more money going out into circulation. This point would be well worth considering. As I mentioned in previous sessions, even when the government put on their sale of these bonds they encouraged the white-collar worker and others to take these bonds out on the instalment plan or even to borrow money from the banks to buy them. That in itself aggravated the inflationary trend; because every time anyone borrowed money from the banks in order to buy these bonds, the banks expanded the financial credit of this country. More money came into existence, with perhaps less consumer goods. That is something which perhaps has not been any too prominently mentioned here, but it is something that is extremely important in the general effect it has on purchasing power today.

Then again there are people who put their savings in the bank, put money away for a rainy day, or contributed some of their income to pay for industrial pensions. What has happened? Years have gone by. They now find it necessary to withdraw some of their savings or they are in receipt of industrial pensions for which they have already paid. What do we find? The money they receive today is worth only half as much as it was worth when they saved it or when they put it into their pension schemes. The result is that they can buy only half as much consumer goods. That is the problem we have to face today, and it is one that has resulted from the government's attitude. They have persisted in following a policy for whose framework they are also responsible.

I am now going to give an illustration. Perhaps hon. members did not read this in the papers the other day because it was not headlined. A certain aged lady went down to the bank here on Sparks street and withdrew $1,000 of her savings which she had put in the bank many years ago. As she was going out of the bank, by way of the front door, near the sidewalk a burly sort of a chap brushed against her. She felt something in her side and the man said: Come through; this is a stick-up. The lady fumbled around with her handbag and the thug—I will call him that—began to get a bit nervous; he poked his hand in the lady's bag and pulled out $500 and began to escape. The lady of course put up a little nervous cry, and it was not long until the news was spread abroad that there had been a stick-up. Of course the mayor of this city—or shall I say the mayoress—heard about it. She immediately contacted the chief of police and demanded that they get that man. She was surely going to have her man. No man is going to stick up defenceless women as long as I am mayor of this city, she said. So the police put a cordon around a few blocks, and the man was caught.

As I say, hon. members did not see this incident headlined in the paper. When the mask was torn from this man's face, to their surprise the police found that the face underneath the mask was none other than that of Douglas Charles Abbott, the finance minister of Canada. Of course the police were greatly surprised. How could they arrest such a distinguished gentleman? When they