

*Supply*

by pointing out that these plans are available. They will serve renovation needs, the purchase of homes, the finding of rental accommodation and assistance to families that have been most severely affected by high interest rates. These plans are designed, in place, and can serve Canadians. The resources are there but they have not been fully utilized. I think I have demonstrated that the use of these plans will have the following effects: they will put Canadians to work in the trades; generate employment for people who are skilled in these trades but unemployed; they will bring new money into the economy, or should I say out of the banks, and put it to work generating employment in these trades.

• (2100)

I believe my comments fall in line with the thrust of the latter part of the motion put by the opposition today, that there has to be co-operation. What I am asking for, Mr. Speaker, is recognition and co-operation by all members who sought the assistance of the government for some of these plans, in order to take advantage of these plans so as to respond to their constituents who may not be aware of them, as *The Toronto Sun* says today. I believe in using our resources in a way which will first of all serve the needy, and secondly, support the economy and get people back to work. I am convinced, Mr. Speaker, that kind of co-operation is a common goal shared by all members of the House irrespective of their political philosophy or commitments.

**Mr. Nielsen:** Are you going to vote for the motion?

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, the speech we got from the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) this afternoon was the usual defensive and apologetic speech we have come to expect from him in the last couple of years. It is a far cry from the kind of speeches he gave and legislation he used to support when he was the minister of labour and then the minister of national health and welfare and helped to bring into being the Canada Pension Plan and the medical insurance plan which have brought such great benefits to the people of Canada. In recent years he has become one of the most conservative members in the present government. He has become the complete captive of his officials who have consistently given him the wrong advice, advice which has produced the highest unemployment rate in the history of Canada, the highest rate of inflation, and a situation which is becoming worse almost daily.

In his speech this afternoon the minister brought forth figures with which he tried to demonstrate that, while we were having difficulties in this country, we were doing quite well as compared to other countries.

We decided to accept the challenge in that argument and obtain figures showing the per capita income of Canadians in 1968, when the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was first elected, and for 1980, just to see what has happened. We were not completely successful but we were able to get from the United Nations 1979-80 year book the per capita income figures for a number of western industrialized countries for the years 1970 and 1978, the figures are very interesting, Mr.

Speaker, and disprove completely the minister's contentions this afternoon. In 1970 the per capita income of Canadians was the third highest in the western world, behind Sweden and the U.S. In 1978 we were eighth, behind Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, the U.S. and The Netherlands. Not only that, Japan had an average per capita income in 1970 of just half of Canada's, and they had almost caught up with us by 1978. I should point out that I am not including OPEC countries such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, as the Prime Minister accused the leader of my party of doing some weeks ago. I am talking about the industrialized countries.

When the minister says we are doing quite well, Mr. Speaker, he is just dead wrong. He has admitted that we are in a recession, one deeper and more prolonged than any forecaster had predicted. That is not quite true. It is deeper and more prolonged than the minister's so-called experts had predicted. There were other experts who had predicted precisely what has happened. The minister says our problems are due to high interest rates and high inflation which are stifling investment. That is true, Mr. Speaker. He said there are no easy solutions to our problems, and that is true. But then he said the first priority of the government is to create more jobs, and to do that we must get our inflation down. That is what the government has been saying for the last six years, and to achieve that end, between the Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Bank of Canada, we have had high interest rates. How are we going to improve the economy and get people to invest in productive capacity when companies are not making profits, when they are working at less than 70 per cent of capacity and paying 18 per cent and 20 per cent interest? How are we going to improve the economy when interest paid on savings is running anywhere between 13 per cent and 16 per cent for term deposits, and when last year's Canada Savings Bonds paid 19.5 per cent interest? People who have money to put into savings are not completely stupid. They are not going to invest their money, even in blue-chip companies, when they will get at best 6 per cent or 7 per cent, and the value of their stock has dropped in the last couple of years by probably 25 per cent or more.

As usual, Mr. Speaker, the minister had no real advice to the Canadian people. The Prime Minister has been saying lately that we have to tighten our belts. What are the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance saying? They are saying that Canadians should be satisfied with wage or salary increases of 6 per cent or 7 per cent. Mr. Speaker, the cost of living has risen in the last year by almost 11.5 per cent. So what the Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister are saying to the Canadian people is that they should accept a reduction in their standard of living of 5 per cent or 6 per cent. They are not going to do that voluntarily, and they should not. If you could persuade people to reduce their standard of living and purchasing power by 5 per cent or 6 per cent, at a time when industry is working at less than 70 per cent of capacity, all you would do would be to make the position of Canadian industry and business even worse. So, Mr. Speaker, I say that