

implementation of the social credit system in order to distribute the purchasing power among all people. Expressions such as "designated areas" and all others which lead people to believe that new industries will spring up in their areas do not mean a thing because, if we use borrowed money to set up new industries and can sell the goods produced by these industries, we are deluding ourselves.

It is impossible to have a healthy economy if we borrow to build, and if we cannot sell our products. That means that all the needs of the many Canadian families have not been met. Thousands of consumers do not have the necessities of life. Then, why does consumer demand fall, when thousands of them do not have the required minimum? In my opinion, the answer is very simple: a certain class of the Canadian society does not enjoy an adequate purchasing power although our subsoil is one of the richest there is and industries are up against production surpluses. Is that normal?

Is it normal that the government denies credit to these people by bringing forth restrictions of all kinds, one of which consists in letting the interest rate climb to an unprecedented level in the history of Canada?

Who benefits by the raise in interest rates? It is certainly not the man who needs it, but rather the anonymous banker or rich man.

I feel that the gap between the rich and the poor is widening from day to day. To remedy the situation we should change either our system or some of our economists so that the latter may deal more effectively with the problems confronting the world.

● (9:30 p.m.)

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Since debate on this motion has now expired pursuant to paragraph 10 of Standing Order 58, the House will proceed to the next item for its consideration, the business of supply.

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES (A), 1969-70

Hon. C. M. Drury (President of the Treasury Board) moved:

That Supplementary Estimates (A) for the financial year ending March 31, 1970, presented to the House Tuesday, November 18, 1969, be concurred in.

Mr. Mac T. McCutcheon (Lambton-Kent): Mr. Speaker, these estimates were before the

Supplementary Estimates

committee designated as miscellaneous estimates. In the work this committee had to do we found 45 \$1 items. Forty-one of these were transfers and four were items of legislative extension or items having the effect of statutory amendments. One year ago the same committee in its report recommended against this procedure being followed. None the less, four of these items were in the miscellaneous estimates. They were well explained, of course, and duly passed.

I am rising to take only a minute or two of the time of the House to complain about the shortness of the period which was allotted to the committee for the examination of these supplementary estimates. The committee was organized on November 20 with instructions that it report back to the House by December 5. I submit with great respect that this was not sufficient time in which to deal adequately with estimates involving some \$66 million.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. McCutcheon: Your committee discovered tremendous increases in certain areas. One in particular which caused concern related to the Privy Council, and there was an increase of approximately \$350,000 in the cost of operating the Prime Minister's office. We were also somewhat concerned to discover an increase of \$1,206,000 representing extra expenditures of Senate committees as compared with the cost last year.

I should like at this point to pay tribute to an excellent chairman, but with great respect to the committee it does not have, constituted as it is, the expertise sufficient for a real examination of the matters which come before it. The field is much too broad, covering as it does virtually every department of government from agriculture to veterans affairs. I do not suggest for one moment that the government has taken advantage of this ready-made situation, but I do suggest that one day an unscrupulous administration might use this small, unknown committee, so to speak, in a manner which would not be in keeping with what we expect from Parliament.

An hon. Member: I bet they have thought of that.

● (9:40 p.m.)

Mr. McCutcheon: Perhaps they have thought of it. But I object strenuously to this new system whereby committees can and are being used mainly as rubberstamps.