

this spiralling inflation; somebody will have to say no.

• (5:40 p.m.)

Let us mention the electricians here in Ottawa who are on strike. I am not blaming the electricians; I am talking about society as a whole. I suppose at the present time they are earning about \$5 an hour in Ottawa. Ten years from today, at the present rate of increase, they will be earning \$10 an hour and in 20 years they will be earning \$20 an hour. I most respectfully ask the government what the plans are for the future so far as the wages and salaries of the citizens of Canada are concerned. Surely, as members of this House of Commons and as citizens of Canada, we have the right to ask our leaders what they intend to do about this. If we do not ask this question, it will be evident that we are satisfied with the way the ball game is being played.

I am taking part in this debate in order to let you know that I am not satisfied with the way the ball game is being played. I say that somebody must sit down and plan for the future of Canada, not ten years from now but rather two years or two months from now; that is just how serious the situation is. The word "controls" is one which is absolutely contrary to my way of life. While I respect my socialist friends to my left for the sincerity with which they present their beliefs, nevertheless, as I said before in this chamber, all we need do is look at little England which is drowning in a sea of socialism. I am against controls and socialism and am for free enterprise; but when we come to a chaotic financial situation, then something must be done. For example, during the war years we had wage and salary controls and controls on prices and profits.

Most respectfully I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that the financial condition of the ordinary citizen and the various governments of Canada, municipal, provincial and federal, is worse today than it was in 1939 when the war started. I would be the last person to suggest that the government should place controls on wages, salaries, prices and profits; but I say to you, sir, that if they do not have any other solution they had better do that. If something does not happen, then 25 years from today the little corner grocery store proprietor, the big supermarket proprietor or the doctor—probably not the politician—and the school teacher, or whoever it might be, will have to take his money to the bank in a wheelbarrow

because money will have so little value by that time.

This is the reason I very respectfully, through you, Mr. Speaker, ask the government what it intends to do. I believe we should be given an answer. In many instances the poverty in Canada today is caused by inflation. I might ask what about the agricultural workers in Canada, the people about whom my hon. friend of the Ralliement Cr ditiste spoke a few moments ago? When I think of the 16 per cent wage increase granted by Air Canada last week, I think of the farmers of eastern Canada and western Canada. What has the government done for the agricultural economy? There has been a cut-back of \$5 million in the subsidy to the dairy producers and \$4 million has been cut back in the premium to hog producers. The income of the agricultural workers decreases while the income of all others in society increases. This is not right at all. It is up to the leaders of our country to tell us what plans they have, not only for the so-called affluent but also for the people engaged in the agricultural industry and other small industries in Canada who are not enjoying financial success at the present time.

Most respectfully I say that I think I would be fair were I to ask the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Olson) and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) what they intend to do in respect of wheat next fall if western Canada should have a bumper crop. Perhaps that is a rhetorical question. The practical answer is that it will be piled out in the fields in western Canada because there will be no other place to put it. These are some of the questions to which I believe the government should give us some answers.

There is so much in Canada that is good. We have one of the highest standards of living in the world. We see large chauffeur driven cars around the Chateau Laurier and around the parliament buildings. We see many automobiles. I understand that in the city of Calgary there are more automobiles per population than there are anywhere else in the world. But what about the people who cannot afford cars, the poor people of Canada?

Much planning must be done. I feel one reason we have so many poor people in the midst of plenty is that we have so few people here in Canada. Can we be proud of the fact that we are the most sparsely populated country in the whole world? As I think I said once before in this chamber I do not believe