

Government Administrative Policies

• (9:40 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. De Bané: First, Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. member who spoke before me for cutting short his remarks so as to enable me to say a few words.

In my opinion, the policy of the government is good because it is impossible to let inflation continue its pressure on the Canadian economy. But, however good it may be, I feel that it is still not enough.

Indeed, if inflation is defined as the increase of prices in time and if inflationary pressure must be stopped long before all resources are developed and full employment achieved, it is none the less true that when governments cut back their expenditures as early as 1968 and 1969, private investments were then running at near-record levels.

In my opinion, the fact that the Prices and Incomes Commission is suggesting nothing but restrictions on wages and prices is a self-accommodating solution and consequently inadequate. The Prices and Incomes Commission must recommend price and wage control.

Indeed, as the great economist Kenneth Galbraith said, modern economy is characterized by multinational companies which control prices themselves, because competition is almost non-existent and financial independence almost complete. Moreover, the interest of those companies for investors depends more on their performance and their financial reserves than on the dividends they pay to their shareholders.

In an economy where the investments of a company come more from its reserves than from the savings of the people, the price asked includes not only production costs and dividends paid to shareholders, but also reserves for development and research, a decision reached by the companies alone. I think that in such circumstances, corporate autonomy in Canada is much too great.

I would therefore propose that the Prices and Incomes Commission put more emphasis in the future on efficient price control. I feel it is the only realistic solution to the problem of the erosion of the dollar.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but pursuant to the order adopted by the House earlier today, I have to put the question.

[English]

Pursuant to section 10 of Standing Order 58, it is my duty to interrupt proceedings on the motion now before the House and forth-

[Mr. Saltzman.]

with put every question necessary to dispose of the motions to concur in the main estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1971, and the supply bill to be based thereon.

MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN VOTE 1,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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

That vote 1, Department of Agriculture, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1971 (less the amount voted in interim supply) be concurred in.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I declare—

Mr. Woolliams: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we could now have from the Government House Leader the total amount of money that we are approving.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member cannot ask this question now. The Standing Orders provide that the question has to be put and there can be no further debate. All those in favour—

Mr. Woolliams: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, whether the question is put or not, surely when we are dealing with \$13 billion or \$14 billion we are entitled to know, when you put the question, the total amount of money involved.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. All those in favour of the said motion will please say yea.

Some hon. Members: Yea.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed will please say nay.

Some hon. Members: Nay.

Mr. Speaker: In my opinion the yeas have it. I declare the said motion carried on division.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION FOR CONCURRENCE IN VOTE 10,
COMMUNICATIONS AND POST OFFICE

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

That vote 10, Communications and Post Office, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1971 (less the amount voted in interim supply) be concurred in.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?