

that in the form of excess profits. But you have nothing to investigate anywhere, and you cannot bring into this house anything that will condemn anyone in this country for any price he is charging.

In the hands of the government just now there is all the necessary machinery. There is the Combines Investigation Act. This matter has all been gone over before and there is no necessity for me to go over it again, but I strongly urge that if you set up a committee it should go into the matter thoroughly. It is not a bad idea to have a committee that will go thoroughly into the whole economy, overhaul it, and bring some evidence into the house on the necessity for legislation to control and regulate things in this country in the interests of all the people. But in the meantime, with the present upward trend of things in this country, action should be taken by the government, even if it be a temporary action, to reimpose controls and subsidies in order to hold the line where it is at the present time.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. GILLIS: Certainly.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I thought this member would. Is the farmer making an excessive or exorbitant profit? No advice from the rest of you over there. Is he making an excessive profit?

Mrs. STRUM: You are a farmer. Is he?

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: I am asking the present speaker. I will attend to you a little later.

Mr. GILLIS: Your question was?

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Is the farmer making an excessive or exorbitant profit at the present price of butter?

Mr. GILLIS: I think the question is rather silly. The farmer in this country is not an exploiter. He is being exploited. The major portion of the income that the farmer should be receiving today is taken by Canada Packers and the Swift Canadian people. They fix the price, they tell him what he is to get, and they take his commodity and market it without restriction.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: The hon. member is always fair. Do I understand he is afraid to answer or will not answer the question?

Mr. GILLIS: I answered it.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: You did not.

Mr. GILLIS: You said something about butter.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: What is your answer?

Mr. GILLIS: If the answer goes over your head that is not my fault. The member for Fraser Valley said something about butter. Certainly the farmer is not making money on butter. The speculator is. These are the things I want to see controlled immediately. Put a stop to that, then check up, and if you are wrong in the reimposition of controls and excess profits tax and subsidies, you can change it on the basis of the evidence you have. But to say in this house that the people of Canada do not want the reimposition of these controls is absolutely not correct, because I know the press every day is full of it. There are demands for it, pleas for it from all sorts of organizations. The labour organizations are preparing new wage demands, there will be new fights and all that sort of thing. These simple steps that I have suggested would stop all that, and if your committee took six months or a year—

Mr. MITCHELL: Can you have price control without wage control?

Mr. GILLIS: No, not effectively. But there is no one in this country that I have ever talked to on that question who was opposed to having wages controlled provided they were not fixed at substandard levels as they are today in this country in many cases. You will find that labour in this country, if you will control profits and prices and keep them within reason will co-operate with the Minister of Labour and any board which he may appoint in keeping their wage demands within reason. There is no argument on that score.

Mr. MITCHELL: That is the story in the trades congress, and the hon. member knows it as well as I do.

Mr. GILLIS: I have been in the game for a long time, and that has always been my conception of it and still is.

I know that my time is running out, Mr. Speaker, and I shall conclude by once more urging the government that they consider seriously the immediate reimposition of price controls; and second, that subsidy arrangements on essential commodities be made effective as they were during the war. Where is the money coming from? There is a large surplus in the hands of the government which could provide subsidies for a year without any additional taxes. But if it is necessary to carry out the policy of subsidies for any extended period, corporation profits in Canada indicate clearly that there is room for the