

Anti-Inflation Act

We have discovered that the cabinet minister from my province has reached the point in his career at which he is more interested in riding camels in Egypt than in the unemployed of Cape Breton. If there are any doubts about that fact, they were eliminated when he told a recent gathering of Grits in Halifax that they should pay little or no heed to my efforts and those of the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. Hogan) as we fight for a better deal for Cape Breton. Apparently they should rely upon him in his new globe trotting role as he tries to emulate the premier of Nova Scotia, who appeared to have about the same amount of concern, as he wandered through the Far East or the Middle East distributing largesse, grants, and long-term 50 year loans at a low rate of interest.

Perhaps if we separated from Confederation we could apply for foreign aid, and perhaps then our request would be heeded. If you look at the record of foreign aid in the form of grants and long-term 50 year loans at a very low rate of interest you find it is very easy for foreign countries to receive that type of assistance from our government.

The cynicism of Cape Bretoners is about the same as the cynicism of the 15,000 to 20,000 marchers on the Hill today who forfeited their pay cheque so that they could back the immediate, real, and continuing concern of the CLC over this legislation, a concern which has been consistent, responsible and constructive.

There is no protection in this legislation for the wage earners of this nation, either in Bill C-73 or in Bill C-89. In the short period that the act has been in effect it is already obvious that the only benefactor is the new army of public officials who will interfere to a far greater degree than at any other time in the past in the lives of the people of this nation. Yes, the just society is just for them, but the task they will perform is to place a far greater number of those who are now gainfully employed on the unemployment rolls of the nation. This is the last thing we need or can afford at this time, but that is what we have and will continue to have as this cancerous operation weaves its tentacles into every aspect of the life of this nation, as the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain said.

I see this new society about which the Prime Minister spoke during his year end philosophizing, or musing as some termed it, and I do not want any part of it. My constituents want no part of it and, from what I can glean, the people of this nation want no part of it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Muir: This government has frozen the wages but not the prices, as has been noted by everyone in this country who has an ounce of brains.

The Prime Minister tells the Canadian people in so many words, "Why, you have been on a spending spree! You have been spending like a drunken sailor. You have to cut back, you have to show restraint". He blames it all on the Canadian people. The hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North (Mr. Coates) outlined a few of the expenditures of the cabinet ministers and of the Prime Minister. Has the Prime Minister or his government shown any restraint since 1968? I say, no. I say to the Prime Minister and his government: heal thyself. I say to this govern-

[Mr. Muir.]

ment—I think members in the House will recall that—the blame also lies with their former cohort, John Turner, who went along with them for years, who went along with those crazy policies which got us in such a mess today. For God's sake, I say to this government, get cracking and get us out of this mess in a hurry, despite the feeble moans of the Liberal whip.

[Translation]

Mr. Eudore Allard (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I have only a few minutes left, and as a good brother, I agreed with my counterpart of the Progressive Conservative party to let another Conservative member speak immediately before me, but nevertheless, I will do my utmost to say what I have to say within the time at my disposal.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take the floor at this stage of the debate on Bill C-89 which is now before us. This legislation contains some provisions which enable those who are affected by the application of the anti-inflation legislation, Bill C-73, to appeal to a non-partisan body. Bill C-73, which was put forward last fall and is now in the statute books had the effect of controlling wages for a period of three years or more. However, in spite of all our claims the present government has recognized the growth of companies, multinationals, interest rates, food prices, and increases in the communications, speculations and energy fields.

A question comes to my mind: What caused the inflation? If one looks at the statistics, one sees that from 1970 to 1974, labour income in Canada has risen from \$46.7 to \$75.9 billion, an increase of 62.6 per cent. As for the increase in aggregate profits, they have gone from \$7.5 to \$18.3 billion, that is an increase of 138 per cent. As far as interest rates are concerned, they have jumped from \$3.4 to \$7 million, an increase of 104.6 per cent.

In 1972, the average weekly wages of the Canadian worker were \$108.13. Two years later, in 1974, they were down to \$105.50, due to inflation. And in 1975, all workers who want to catch up with the cost of living increase are restrained by an unfair legislation, Bill C-73. Mr. Speaker, this legislation has not gained wide public support; it is at the expense of the working people and does not protect the working class. Should this government some day respect and protect the human being instead of capital and profits, there will no longer be any inflation. And at that moment, life will be better. There will be fewer drugs and murders, more frankness and co-operation.

Mr. Speaker, if this government changes its goals and applies its legislation in a fairer way for all the Canadian people, I am convinced that the situation will improve. And how will this be possible? By stimulating production. And to improve production, it is essential to produce more. And to produce more, it is essential to work harder.

● (2150)

There are several solutions to this problem, several capitalist solutions which are more or less valid, but for a Social Creditor like myself, there is only one solution.

An hon. Member: Be specific!