

member for Portage la Prairie, as reported in the *Portage la Prairie Graphic* of October 18, 1946, as follows:

Mr. Miller emphasized there was no difference between the Liberals and Progressive Conservatives on price control and inflation.

Surely that makes it clear; the candidate himself declared that there was no difference whatever between the Progressive Conservatives and the Liberals on the question of price control and inflation. They were both for inflation, and the leader of the opposition, in supporting the candidate, endorsed that. That is one stand, and on that basis they appealed to the voters of Portage la Prairie and won the by-election, I must admit.

Mr. MERRITT: The hon. member's party did not do very well.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: We preferred to conduct our campaign on the policy that we stand for rather than on shifting sands.

Mr. MERRITT: The hon. member is pretty holy, isn't he?

Mr. ZAPLITNY: But in this House of Commons it is plain to everybody who has ears to hear that one member after the other in the official opposition, this session and in other sessions, rose in their places and attacked the government, and abused Donald Gordon for having maintained the price control system. They thought it was the most iniquitous thing in the world. One hon. member suggested that we take a sawed-off shot gun and go on a man-hunt for the officials of the prices board.

Mr. LOCKHART: I still say so.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: It is too bad you did not go out to Portage la Prairie and say it. That is the second stand. We have had two. Here comes the third one; here is the coup de grace. Speaking on May 7, 1947, on the radio, as reported in the *Evening Citizen* of the following day, the leader of the opposition had this to say. The report starts out:

John Bracken, Progressive Conservative Leader, told Canadians Wednesday night their cost of living "is mounting much more rapidly than your taxation is decreasing."

Who is responsible for that? Who has been advocating decontrol and the raising of the cost of living? Only today we heard one member asking for the sweeping away of price control. Yet they complain on the radio that the cost of living is rising faster than the tax reductions are coming into effect. This report continues:

Dealing with Finance Minister Abbott's budget, Mr. Bracken said more than half the Canadians who paid income tax had no relief through

[Mr. Zaplitny.]

1947 reductions cancelled by the increased cost of living in the first four months of the year. The reductions had been offset by the removal of government subsidies, forcing price rises in eggs, cheese and butter.

Mr. HARKNESS: Do you deny that?

Mr. COLDWELL: Who asked for the removal of subsidies?

Mr. ZAPLITNY: We have the three stands, the three-headed monster before us: (1) they are exactly the same as the government in their policy on the price control system; (2) they ask the government to do away with price control; and (3) they get on the radio and attack the government for having done away with price control. There you have it all.

An hon. MEMBER: And the government listened to them.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: His Majesty's official opposition has a responsible position in this country and has a duty to perform, and I believe it should take its duty a little more seriously. However, I will leave it at that, because time is going on and I want to place on record a few concrete suggestions for the government to consider. What I have said in criticism has been said in good faith, and I do not want to leave the impression that I wish to be destructive in my criticism.

I should like to suggest to the government that while there is still time they consider these proposals, I think that if they will look among the Liberal benches, when they are filled—and unfortunately there are not many here at the moment—they will find many members who are of the same opinion. Here are the proposals that I think are fair and reasonable. They are not all the proposals I should like to see enacted, but they are what I would think can be supported by this house:

1. Raise exemption levels to \$1,000 for single persons and \$2,000 for married persons.

2. Amend the old age and blind pensions act so as to provide an old age pension at the age of sixty-five at the rate of \$50 a month and a blind pension at the age of seventeen at a similar rate.

3. Introduce legislation to provide for financial assistance to persons who are crippled or otherwise disabled and thereby prevented from earning a living.

4. Provide financial assistance to provinces for the purpose of improving and equalizing educational opportunities.

5. Amend the Prairie Farm Assistance Act so as to make it more applicable to hail and flood damage and place its provisions on a smaller unit basis.