

Finance

The \$8 billion deficit and the borrowing of government on government, borrowing interest to pay interest, is a part of that total softness in terms of the crisis in Canada, the value of our dollar.

Let us not sit here and play games. We know there is a long-term problem. Because we do not own and control the resources of this country, we cannot make the decisions. We have not looked at Sweden and West Germany in terms of their performance with regard to unemployment and inflation. We are running behind every modern western industrialized country in terms of employment creation. The reason is clear. Those countries control and dominate the economic decisions within their own countries. They do not have this blood-letting every year of paying rents, profits and absentee landlord fees that are driving their currencies under. That is where our currencies have gone.

Mr. Stollery: It is relative to both sides.

Mr. Leggatt: The hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Stollery) should keep in mind that there once was in that cabinet a fellow named Walter Gordon. Even that mild mannered Canadian could not find room in a Liberal cabinet and had to go. Eric Kierans made some noise about owning and controlling our economy. He did too much. Even poor old Herb Gray sitting at the end of the front benches could not find a place inside that cabinet.

Mr. Stollery: He is still here.

Mr. Leggatt: He is not inside the cabinet because the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) will not allow disagreement within cabinet. He has come to the point of total arrogance. He cannot stand anyone disagreeing with him on any subject.

We must start dealing with long term industrial strategy in our country. We must control our economy, make our own economic decisions, raise capital inside this country and not have a continual hemorrhaging of profits, dividends, rents and interest going abroad.

Somebody said there is no free lunch. That is true. However, there are a lot of people in New York, Sweden and London with a free lunch because of the rewards they are getting on their capital. I am a little tired of Milton Freedman economics, an economic philosophy that is now conventional wisdom with both the old line parties. They say the poor and the unemployed have been drawing too much. They believe they have been paid too much in social transfer payments and therefore the economy is soft. Are we going to blame the poor and unemployed for the problems instead of those who have been making the economic decisions in the world for the past 20 years?

As I said, I will not accept Milton Freedman economics which is now conventional wisdom in both the Liberal and Tory parties. Even Franklin Delano Roosevelt is a raving radical as far as the old line parties are concerned. They cannot even accept the mild solutions he proposed during the depression. After the first ministers' conference, it seems it is

[Mr. Leggatt.]

only the private sector that can solve our problems. If you eliminate the option of creating jobs, you will not solve unemployment in this country.

The free enterprise sector can do something, but it cannot provide long term solutions, without the assistance of the public sector, without creating jobs. In this country, we have always had to use the co-operation of the public sector to solve our unique problems in transportation and communications. It is part of our history and heritage. Both the Liberals and Conservatives have abandoned that heritage.

The reason our dollar is in a crisis situation is because of ideological fanaticism, a refusal to accept the mildest kind of proposals that have been made by this party in terms of job creation. They refuse to accept the rational approach. No wonder the gnomes of Zurich are unhappy with us. They recognize this government will not move in even the mildest kind of way in order to put people to work in Canada. It is true there is no free lunch. Everybody has to work.

Mr. Stollery: We heard that before.

Mr. Leggatt: It's a great line. I don't want to lose it. It is time that salaries of deputy ministers were cut in half. The problem of paying deputy ministers \$60,000 a year is that they become right wing and rich, losing touch with the ordinary people. Maybe if we cut the salary of Tommy Shoyama a bit, he would be more sensitive to what are the policies.

Mr. Stollery: Let's cut the MP's salary down. I am in favour of that.

Mr. Leggatt: Well, let's not go too far.

Mr. Kempling: Now that cat is out the bag. Here's the fox among the chickens.

Mr. Leggatt: The crisis in terms of the Canadian dollar lies in the mismanagement of this country. We agree with the Conservative party on this. There has been an odour of putrefaction coming from the front benches for a long time. We can smell it. We are watching a government collapse. It is nice watching this come down around their ears because they deserve it so much. This is mismanagement. It is ideological fanaticism. It is a failure to appreciate that until you put this country to work, the dollar will not improve on a long term basis. Canada's balance of payments will not improve. Until we own and control this economy, there is no long term solution.

● (0112)

Mr. Peter Elzinga (Pembina): Mr. Speaker, I wish to participate in the debate on the motion moved by the leader of this party and seconded by the leader of the New Democratic Party. It is obvious that this might be the only opportunity I will have to deliver a major speech prior to the coming election. I wish to share with the constituents of Pembina the gratification I feel for the opportunity of serving in parliament on their behalf, but one cannot help but be somewhat saddened after viewing the opportunity this government has wasted in