

Anti-Inflation Board, that so-called quasi-judicial, impartial board which is supposed to protect the interests of all Canadians. What are people to think when they see the sort of speech made by Mr. L. J. Biddell, as reported in the *Globe and Mail* of November 19, 1975? He said:

The regulations are likely to be too restrictive and inflexible...

On whose behalf was he speaking? Certainly he did not speak for ordinary workers. The report continues:

The white paper guidelines will require the businessman to suppress almost every one of his natural entrepreneurial drives...

The program's effect on wage and salary earners will not be severe, he said. 'I think they will get along quite well.'

Naturally he would say that. If he ever was a wage or salary earner, it was a long time ago. Today he is part of the corporate set-up which runs the country. Naturally he will not worry about the ordinary working man. He worries about the corporations. Neither will the chairman of the Anti-Inflation Board worry about the working man. He really has a tough time, with a salary of over \$1,000 a week. When he leaves the board he can go back to what he has done so successfully, that is, looking after his big business corporate clients. In the circumstances I suggest that our fears about the effectiveness of this program are well founded. Our fears began on October 14, and all that has happened since then has merely reinforced our fears.

We have repeatedly asked the Minister of Finance what are the reasons for this proposal, as never before in the last 100 years, with the exclusion of wartime, has the government attempted this kind of interference in the lives of ordinary Canadians. We know that the inflation rate last year was 10.5 per cent, but what do government economists or experts predict for next year? We have asked such questions repeatedly. What will be the inflation rate? Will it be 25 per cent, as in Great Britain, or 200 per cent, as in Argentina? The question affects all Canadians. The people are ready to make sacrifices and restrain their demands, if the situation is really bad. But we want to know how bad the situation is. What do the minister's experts say? To our questions the minister has repeatedly answered that he is not in the business of forecasting and guessing, and cannot tell us.

Mr. Benjamin: He is in the business of governing.

Mr. Orlikow: We live in a democratic society and, fortunately, some experts and economists work for organizations other than the government. We were able to get forecasts from a reliable source. This evening I want to put on record forecasts made by a group of experts who are part of a non-political, academic organization with an extremely high standing among economists in this country, the University of Toronto Institute of Quantitative Analysis. We asked some people who have worked with that organization to ask its members, "What are your estimates? You have a model of the economy and access to computers. What do you estimate will be the rate of inflation next year? What would inflation have been if the government had not implemented this wage and price control program? What would inflation be next year without the program, and what would it be with the program?"

● (2100)

Anti-Inflation Act

This past year the inflation rate was 10½ per cent. What would it have been without the controls? It would not have been the 25 per cent about which I speculated or the 200 per cent which they had in the Argentine. Without controls, according to the Institute of Quantitative Analysis, it would have been 11.3 per cent. In other words, it would not have gone up even 1 per cent more than it was this past year.

What will the rate be with the controls? Will inflation be cut by 3 per cent or 5 per cent? In other words, will it be worth all the effort? There is bad news again. The University of Toronto Institute of Quantitative Analysis estimates that in 1976 with the controls, and this is assuming full compliance even though they say there is only a 50/50 chance, the rate of inflation would only be cut to 9.6 per cent. In other words there will be a reduction in inflation of less than 1 per cent.

We know from the late but not lamented days of John Young that the government's programs of restraint usually bring more unemployment. We asked about unemployment. What did the Institute of Quantitative Analysis say? We know that we have had a rate of unemployment of around 7 per cent for the past six months. They say that without controls the unemployment rate for 1976 would be 6.9 per cent and, with controls, 7.1 per cent. Another group predicts over 9 per cent.

Russell Bell, who is a good enough economist to have held a senior position with the Economic Council of Canada before he went to work with the Canadian Labour Congress, estimates that unemployment will increase by at least a full percentage point over what it has been this year. And we are going to have a very little decrease in the rate of inflation. There will probably be another 100,000 unemployed.

By the time the Prime Minister completes his ten years in office in 1978, the rate of unemployment in this country will have increased by about 150 per cent. That is not a record of which any Prime Minister can be proud. It is a record which the members of this party have no intention of supporting. We intend to oppose this bill as we have from the beginning. I say to the Minister of Finance that our opposition to this bill will be very much strengthened, and our questions much more pointed, after he completes his meetings with the provincial ministers of finance in the next couple of days.

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, the country is watching with great interest the positions being taken with regard to this bill. People are probably confused, but hopeful. Most people were pleased to hear the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) state over television that something was going to be done, because there is nothing worse than inactivity. The activity suggested that at least there would be some interest.

Mr. Woolliams: Not all the time.

Mr. Peters: There was some desire for this kind of activity. This has been the result.

Mr. Nystrom: You woke up Eldon.