

Of nearly 18,600 settlements submitted to the Anti-Inflation Board up to September 10, some 11,000—or 60 per cent—covering more than 1,200,000 workers, were within the guidelines.

While some provincial governments expressed reservations, all entered into anti-inflation agreements with us and all are making every effort to deal successfully with the job.

The Supreme Court of Canada has upheld the validity of the act passed by this Parliament and the majority of Canadians continue to give the program their support.

● (1600)

[English]

An important part of the success we have achieved is the result of the extraordinary dedication of the members and staff of the Anti-Inflation Board. To the chairman, Jean-Luc Pepin, the administrator, Donald Tansley, and to the men and women who work with them I offer my congratulations and my gratitude.

Here in parliament it has been a rather less inspiring story. The Leader of the Opposition, for example, has continued to project the confusion of the position he adopted when the controls were being debated in this House. Along with his party he voted for the program on second reading, and against it on third reading.

In his speech a moment ago, in the same breath he referred to the anti-inflation program as the program that we stole from them and then went on to talk about a contingency plan that we had for bringing in inflation—controls—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Trudeau:—if inflation were caused by certain domestic events. I can only suppose, Mr. Speaker, that between the second and the third reading they suddenly discovered we had not stolen their program but it was a program all our own, and that is why they changed their minds.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition keeps talking about a freeze and does not seem to realize that the program that was brought in by this parliament a year ago did not in any way entail a freeze. It may be something with which the Leader of the Opposition disagrees, but I think it would be important that he understand the reality before disagreeing with it.

Up to and including today, neither he nor his party have contributed anything to public understanding of the crippling and pervasive impact of inflation upon the lives of Canadians, nor any suggestion of appropriate economic tools for the future, nor any support of the vital national effort to control inflation.

The Tory policy on fighting inflation is to have no policy, to avoid stating a policy, while trying to stand firmly on every side of the issue.

Just recently, when the Leader of the Opposition was asked for his position on the general strike planned by the Canadian Labour Congress for tomorrow, or the general protest, to use

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the more accurate word, he, I think, dodged the question. If he is accurately quoted he said that while he could not support illegal action he could understand the reasons for it. Conversely, on bilingualism, we have just heard him express his point of view. He does support the policy but he cannot understand its applications. So the closest we can come to defining the Tory approach to policy issues is that they cannot support what they can understand, but they cannot understand what they support.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: But I suppose we should not be too hard on the Tory leader's non-policy on the controls' program, Mr. Speaker. He cannot be expected to solve inflation—and Bow River—at the same time.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Then there are the efforts of the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) to match the "welfare bum" campaign of his predecessor. The hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby is in the embarrassing position of having declared a war on profits which nobody seems to want to fight. Not even his encouragement to law-abiding Canadians to break their contracts and defy the law of the land tomorrow—

Mr. Broadbent: I thought it was a day of protest and not a strike.

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, this is our hope, that it will be a day of protest without breaking any contracts or any laws. This is the hope that the Minister of Labour (Mr. Munro) expressed before, and again today. I have not seen the Leader of the New Democratic Party express that hope but I will be glad to listen to him if he is going to say that—that the protest tomorrow should in no way infringe any law or break any contract; then I would stand corrected. But if, on the contrary, he is encouraging a protest which does entail the breaking of contracts and of the law, I suggest that he is trying to buy support at a very high price—the price of dereliction of responsible leadership.

I hold him even more responsible than the CLC executive for advising workers to engage in an illegal strike, because unlike the CLC leaders he was not pushed into an irresponsible position by militant factions within his own membership. If he wonders why it is difficult to win the same degree of public respect as was accorded to Mr. David Lewis, the answer may lie in the fact that Mr. Lewis was not in the habit of seeking public advantage by counselling disrespect for the law or for legal obligations.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Broadbent: What a phony!

Mr. Trudeau: What are we to think of the present N.D.P. leader's attempts to undermine the anti-inflation program with his indiscriminate attack on profits? Does he really expect people to believe that the only good business is a bankrupt