

Adjournment of House

while annual wage and salary increases granted under major collective agreements were in the order of 9 per cent. I know that members of the NDP will say that does not include increases in the profits of chartered banks. That, of course, is true. That is why the Prices and Incomes Commission is examining and investigating the recent profit figures of the chartered banks of Canada. It should be obvious that unless there is an early and marked reversal of the recent upward trend of labour costs, executive salary and income costs, there can be no possibility of consolidating recent progress in containing price increases, let alone continuing to move in the direction of reasonable price stability.

I now turn to the efforts of the Prices and Incomes Commission to work out, with Canadian labour leaders, a co-operative program to put reasonable limits on wage and salary increases away above productivity levels. The commission was appointed last spring. During the summer it met with Canadian labour and business leaders. It hoped to be able to put together a national consensus on restraint that would have contained inflation more than it has today. It is a matter of regret that on October 17 the leaders of organized labour rejected any approach to the problem which incorporated an explicit formula limiting wage and salary increases. After consultation with business and government the commission decided to explore a narrower approach in which firms alone would take the first step in a commitment even though a corresponding degree of restraint on the cost side could not be guaranteed. Had the commission been successful at that time in working out the kind of agreement it was endeavouring to work out, and had the leaders of organized labour in Canada gone along with that arrangement, there is no doubt in my mind that we would be suffering less from inflation and there would be less unemployment.

May I call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

HOUSE OF COMMONS**TIME OF ADJOURNMENT THIS DAY**

Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale): Mr. Speaker, further to the suggestion of the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) there have been discussions. It appears there may be consent to the following order, that notwithstanding the special order made earlier this day, the ordinary time of daily adjournment for this

[Mr. Basford.]

day's sitting shall be 10 p.m. If I am right in that assumption, perhaps that could be made an order of the House.

Mr. Aiken: Speaking on behalf of the official opposition, Mr. Speaker, we agree to this order being made, without in any way withdrawing the fundamental objections expressed earlier this afternoon by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield). In fact, had we been able to have this debate on a more suitable occasion, it might not have been necessary to make this order. In any case, we do agree.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Mr. Speaker, we agree to this order. It puts us back where we were this afternoon before the kerfuffle which we thought was quite unnecessary. At any rate, we do agree.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. B  chard): Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. B  chard): It is so ordered.

At six o'clock the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS**BUSINESS OF SUPPLY**

ALLOTTED DAY, S.O. 58—DISAPPROVAL OF CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES OF GOVERNMENT

The House resumed consideration of the motion (Mr. Stanfield):

That this House express its disapproval of the administrative policies of the government by opposing items in the Main Estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1971; and in particular vote 1 of the Department of Agriculture, vote 10, Communications and Post Office, vote 5 of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, vote 1 of the Privy Council and votes 1 and 5 of the Treasury Board.

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, when the House rose at six o'clock I was reciting the history of the Prices and Incomes Commission in endeavouring to enter into co-operative arrangements with the leaders of organized labour. I expressed the disappointment of the government and of the commission at the announcement that those representatives