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that the government has a role to play in the planning of the economy. All these things must happen, otherwise we will continue to rip out our resources, and to lose, therefore, many job opportunities.

Interest rates are rising, Mr. Speaker. The government says that we are locked into the American interest rate structure, and that if their interest rate rises, so must ours. What has happened is that it has sneaked continentalism in through the back door. The effect of high interest rates on industry is illustrated in British Columbia where the Weldwood plant has had to lay off 700 workers because interest rates have made it uneconomical for the plant to keep these people.

This government has said that things will get worse before they get better. It is the old story, the operation was successful but the patient died. The government keeps saying that raising the interest rates is the way to fight inflation, but in fact it causes inflation. How does one bring inflation down by allowing interest rates to rise? When they were in opposition, it was wonderful to hear the Conservatives make all their arguments against rising interest rates, but now that they are the government, they say that we are locked in.

If one looks at the answers in *Hansard* given by the minister of finance of the previous government with regard to interest rates, one will find that they are exactly the same answers the current Minister of Finance has been giving out. The government does not have a new approach or a new deal. All they say is that we must renew initiatives and let Canadians pull themselves up by their bootstraps. It is operation bootstraps. It is forward into the past. That is the myth today, that somehow or other having a free enterprise system and competition will solve our economic problems. It will not solve our problems.

This government has brought in the supplementary estimates which were introduced by the previous government, but they could easily be the supplementary estimates of this government because they have accepted holus-bolus the basic philosophy on which Canada is run, economically speaking.

Mr. Herb Breau (Gloucester): Mr. Speaker, recognizing that the NDP has decided that they would speak on this motion, I want to put on record the reason my party will not participate in the debate. It is because we would prefer to wait and have our day in Committee of the Whole. We are prepared today to go into Committee of the Whole on the bill with the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. McGrath). It is not because we are not interested or that we agree that the House should give passage to this matter of supply without asking any questions of the government about what they have done. Or I should say what they have not done, because they really have not done very much. That is the position of our party.

We recognize that the NDP has decided otherwise, and we do not question that. They see it as their duty to participate in this debate. What we want to do is get at these ministers and bring them before Parliament and the eyes of the public to show the public what this government has not done in the past five months.

[Mr. Rodriguez.]

Mr. Benno Friesen (Surrey-White Rock-North Delta): Mr. Speaker, I would like to add a couple of remarks in response to the remarks made by the poverty-stricken member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez). I share his concern that when government contracts are given out, we ought to preserve as many jobs as possible for Canadians. The hon. member referred to the proposed ferry to be built by Canadian National and said that it ought to be built by Canadians if at all possible.

My mind then went back several years when the hon. member for Nickel Belt was on a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association trip to Sri Lanka. The hon. member came back with a Persian rug, much like the Persian rugs found over in the Rideau Club which he eschewed so much. When the hon. member landed in London, he went straight from the airport to the English Channel in order to catch a ferry to France so that he could buy a headlamp for his French car. It was not a Renault or Peugeot but a Citroen. That is the hon. member's way of preserving Canadian jobs. I hope when he hires help to look after his race horse that it is Canadian help.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, I do not know where the hon. member got this idea. He may have been on some sort of Arabian Night's dream. I do not know on what basis he makes those accusations about my purchasing non-Canadian items. I do not frequent the South African embassy, and therefore do not have an opportunity to enjoy South African wines. I do not know what the hon. member is talking about.

Mr. Lefebvre: Mr. Speaker, on the point raised by the hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Breau), I would like to make it very clear that I support him completely. We would sooner get into Committee of the Whole and call certain ministers to reply in this Parliament to specific questions, rather than make long speeches and get no answers. The members of the NDP have chosen, which is their right, to filibuster on this bill and not go into Committee of the Whole. As the official opposition we will watch their actions, and if they continue to filibuster we will also put up some speakers.

Mr. Lorne Nystrom (Yorkton-Melville): Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to speak on this matter, but then I heard the remarks of the Liberal whip.

Mr. Darling: What is that in your hand?

Mr. Nystrom: I will tell you what it is in a minute. The Liberal whip has said that the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez), by making an eloquent and tremendous speech, is leading my party on a filibuster. I would like to know, as the hon. member for Sault Ste. Marie (Mr. Symes) asked, what the hon. member's definition is of filibuster.

We are dealing with supplementary estimates here which are very important. I think the reason the Liberals do not wish to participate is that they are embarrassed. We are dealing with estimates proposed by the previous Liberal government. The President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Stevens) is nodding