

Income Tax

us prophets of doom and gloom. They tried to have us believe that the leader of the Progressive Conservative party was retrograde. But what happened only a few months later? After winning the confidence of the majority of the Canadian people, the government came to power under false pretences. Only a few months later, the government made a complete turnabout: they imposed wage and price controls and mislead the Canadian people—

● (2222)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Chambly (Mr. Loiselle) on a point of order.

Mr. Loiselle (Chambly): I beg your pardon, Mr. Speaker, but anyone who has any knowledge of the economy knows that between the wage and price freeze suggested by the opposition and what we proposed to the Canadian people in 1976, there is as much difference as between day and night. Of course, you have to be a little knowledgeable.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member will agree with me that he just expressed a matter of opinion on which the Chair does not have to rule. He already had the opportunity to make his own speech and put forward his arguments. Therefore I think he should allow other members to listen closely to the hon. member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle).

Mr. La Salle: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Moreover, the government has even more misled the people because with those measures they promised to curb inflation, and that is not what happened. Inflation has increased. It had promised to restore the business world, to make agreements with the unions, but we saw a continuous confrontation, and not later than today he was suggesting dates for decontrol, but we are still waiting for it. Mr. Speaker, how can my hon. friends opposite honestly accuse me of foul play? It is not possible, Mr. Speaker, and they know it. We saw this in how many measures where some hon. members felt like denouncing their own government, I am sure, on these projections which proved erroneous. Then do not tell me that the government did not mislead the people when they promised to maintain national unity, to reduce unemployment, to slow down inflation, to spur the Canadian industry, to reduce annual deficits; it was a complete failure all along the line, Mr. Speaker. And they try to have me retract my words when I say that the government took in the Canadian electorate. I am flabbergasted, Mr. Speaker. I thought my hon. friends opposite could be more honest and sincere with me. Well, I am being asked too much, Mr. Speaker. That cannot be!

Mr. Speaker, in my riding as well as in my province, I repeat that a cynical hypocrisy is obvious. They try to make us accept certain provisions that cannot be added to the same act. I will venture further. I had forgotten my good friend, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Horner). Some people say that we have been taken in. It is funny to see how things turn out to be. How can we expect the public to have confidence?

[Mr. Pinard.]

A few months ago, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce was on our side and my friends opposite wanted his hide. They had been dreaming of that for years. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce has been on our side for 19 years. He has fustigated, condemned and repudiated this government. Then a transfer occurred for reasons everybody knows. Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce dared attempt with great seriousness to convince us that he was truly motivated by the desire to advocate measures he had been denouncing for 19 years.

But, Mr. Speaker, the most sickening thing in all this is when I saw my friends opposite applaud him. They actually applauded the one they wanted to crucify merely six months ago. But the Canadian people are not blind. When they learn of things like that, when they realize what has happened, they say: No, it cannot be. It is just not possible that this government changes its mind so quickly and that members of parliament support and applaud the very one they would have gladly nailed to the barn six months ago.

● (2225)

That is what we see, Mr. Speaker, and the Minister of Finance as well as a number of members of this House, with all the respect I owe them, are asking me to trust this government. I cannot honestly tell my constituents that there is no problem, no reason to be afraid. Nor can I ask the people of Canada to trust this government. If I say that this government has betrayed us on too many occasions, Mr. Speaker, am I going to be called to order? Maybe. But like thousands of other Canadians, I suggest that this government has failed in its duty and that several of its ministers have failed in their responsibilities.

In such circumstances, it is impossible to trust this government and to give an unreserved support to this bill. If the government would agree to split this bill in order to keep only the best and most pressing part of it, we would be ready to support it. We would support it indeed! But there are a number of proposals in this piece of legislation which are too important and too questionable, with regard to capital gains and insurance policies, to be approved without reservation. Besides, we would be blamed for doing so, which we are not going to be, because we will stick up for the rights of Canadian electors in this regard.

I should like to point out, in passing, the statement the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion made last week. He said, and I quote:

What I mean is that it is not the responsibility of the federal government and the Department of Regional Economic Expansion alone to fight against disparities. In my meetings with the premiers and the provincial ministers with whom I have regular consultations and negotiations—

When the minister speaks to us of fighting against those infamous regional disparities, I have no doubt whatsoever that he is sincere, Mr. Speaker, because I know the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion very well; but we have been talking about that for ten years now, and what results do we have?