

parliament is doing its job and this government would like to see this parliament continue doing its job.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (2100)

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, this record of achievement which the government has put before you tonight is an effective record. It is an effective record by a minority government that has been successful in making this minority parliament produce. It is simply not good enough for the leader of either party who wishes to destroy this parliament to say that the first session was productive but that this session was not. I have already cited legislation of vital importance to farmers, fishermen, small businessmen and consumers, legislation important to increasing Canadian activity and control in key sectors of our society, vital legislation that would die on the order paper and legislation that would have to wait, if an election were held, until a new Liberal government returns to provide it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Consistently since this parliament began, this government has attacked inflation by a several-pronged approach. The Minister of Finance was true yesterday to that approach. In legislation, in administrative action and in two budgets the government has shown its attack on inflation. It has consistently sought to increase supply, to get the farmers, the fishermen and the factories producing more. We sought to go after extremes of profit. On the one hand we have consistently sought to stop gouging. For all Canadians we sought to bring down prices, on the other hand, by subsidies and by other measures. We cut taxes, and finally, for the Canadians who are hurt most by inflation, we brought in an array of measures which increased and indexed their pensions and other sources of income.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: Mr. Speaker, that was an attack on inflation. It is an attack increasingly understood by farmers, by fishermen, by consumers and by producers. Very recently, even small businessmen across Canada who for a time had embraced price and wage controls reversed their opinion and stated that they were against price and wage controls. They dislike wage and price controls because they have seen the shortages that develop as a result of controls and because they know they will have to pay an inflated price for the materials in short supply. They have observed the experience of Great Britain and the United States and have said to the Leader of the Opposition, "No thanks. Not for us".

It is true that our attack on inflation is not a simple one. It is a complex one. It is a complex solution to a complex problem. We certainly reject the simple, and perhaps simple-minded, approach that has been brought to bear by the opposition on this question. These Tory controls would control the wages of the workingman. Prices have already risen very high, and controls will not bring them down. If you freeze high prices, there are still high prices; but if you freeze wages, there are still low wages.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Budget—Mr. Trudeau

Mr. Trudeau: I am sure many of us on this side of the House will want to explain this at some length to the country if we become involved in an election campaign. We have explained before, and will explain again, that these simplistic solutions in reality are Conservative solutions, ones which a Liberal Party would not want to place on the workingman and the fisherman. I think perhaps the slogan I would suggest to the Tory Party for its measure would be: The price is right; let us freeze the wages.

Mr. Speaker, I was attempting to show that this parliament has been doing a relatively good job—an admission of some of the opposition parties until now. I want to conclude by asking all members of this House, including myself, to try to put aside for a moment any partisan spirit. I would ask the members of this House, as we will ask the citizens of this country if we are forced to ask them for a renewed mandate, to reflect upon the troubled world in which Canadians are living. I do not think that anyone who looks at other parts of the world would be unaware of the economic and political instability which exists in many countries. I would appeal to Canadians to consider, not that everything is fine and dandy but that Canada is doing, shall we say, relatively well in this troubled world.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: The land is relatively strong.

Mr. Trudeau: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I suppose that would be a better slogan. One might look at the economic performance of Canada viewed by people outside the country. I shall not bore the House by quoting again the opinions of the OECD, the IMF, the *Wall Street Journal* or the *Financial Times* in respect of Canada's economy. I shall not even invoke the Canada Year Book, which is something of an authority, for the hon. member for Peace River. But, Mr. Speaker, I think if anyone looks impartially at the various reports they will have to admit that in a troubled economic world, Canada is doing relatively well.

● (2110)

In a troubled political world, particularly if we call to mind the comparisons that were made after October, 1972, respecting a stable Canada and its minority government, and the great majority of the President of the United States and the successful elections of the President of France and the Chancellor of Germany, it is interesting to look back 18 months later and to see how Canada fared in political terms and that Canadians are also doing relatively well and there has been pretty sensible political stability in the past 18 months.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Trudeau: As I was saying at the beginning of my speech, essentially I should like to show the consequences of dissolving parliament now and try to impress on the opposition and the country the effects of interrupting the business of the nation to have this expensive election of which the leader of the Cr ditistes spoke—interrupting the economic momentum which is making Canada a more successful economic country than other countries. And