

*Anti-Inflation Policies*

It is of little consolation to us as individuals when the government of Canada sees to it that its "hogs" are well fed at our expense.

I believe that puts the situation exactly and in very few words. It also indicates that the government is giving no consideration to people who are not in a position to meet their obligations. If the government had any concern whatsoever for the nation, it would put some ready cash into the pockets of the farmers. Any member on the government side who suggests that through the LIFT program the government is putting money in the pockets of individual farmers is not aware of the facts: he has not gone into the country to find out the real facts.

● (8:20 p.m.)

We have heard from many people that Canada cannot sell its grain, but as recently as last night the Minister of Agriculture made it very clear that this government has no intention of trying to sell Canadian grain or to set up any type of machinery under the Canadian Wheat Board which would really help in selling Canadian produce. So far as I am concerned, the government is performing a disservice to the agricultural economy which members in all parts of this House represent.

At the same time we learned that Canada definitely could stand a merchant marine and shipbuilding industry. We had one at one time. What has the government done about this? Has it really tried to come up with a plan for a shipbuilding industry and a marine service that would mean something to Canadians generally? The answer is no. Absolutely nothing has been done about it. Yet we spend millions of dollars on frivolous matters which mean little to people who are trying to obtain employment. If we had a shipbuilding industry and marine service perhaps we would have better access to world markets. What we are doing now is supporting the so-called foreign flag service which operates in this country without regulation in so far as the Canadian government is concerned. Of course, it is pretty nice for these ships to be able to fly their flags and not be governed by our regulations, but this does not provide job opportunities for Canadians generally.

I am sure many members of the House are aware that this government intends to do very little in so far as an approach to the unemployment situation is concerned, at least in respect of the manner in which it ought to be approached. I am also sure, because of the

motion now before us, that the government is suspect in the eyes of the Canadian people. I am very sure that if this government was deserving of any type of respect or support it would go out in the country in an effort to meet the people engaged in whatever occupation it may be; it would see the unemployed and the cupboards that are bare in many cases, and it would try to do something about the situation. It is a disservice, to say the least, for members of the government to sit in the House of Commons and suggest all is well and that the responsibility lies with other people.

I noticed that when the Minister of Finance spoke today he spent a lot of time talking about the Canadian Labour Congress. He suggested that the Prices and Incomes Commission was urged on the government by my party, the New Democratic Party. I am proud that this commission may have been forced on the government by my party, but I should say at the same time that this party never said that any investigation should be conducted in this country without including a study of the profit motive behind the whole situation. Prices and incomes cannot be dealt with without including the third phase, profits. At no time has a government commission been set up to review prices, incomes and profits. I hope that at the committee meeting going on this evening the chairman suggests that the profits of corporations which affect the basic needs of this country be considered. Probably his terms of reference would exclude that train of thought.

I have a feeling that the Prices and Incomes Commission is another commission set up for the express purpose of getting the government off the hook and laying the blame at labour's feet. I suggest that if the government was sincere in this respect and would look into prices, incomes and profits, labour would co-operate. To this day, however, I have seen nothing in the efforts and investigations of the Prices and Incomes Commission which would indicate to the people of Canada that the government is sincere in this regard.

I started out by saying the choice between inflation and unemployment is up to the people. This afternoon the minister suggested that the increase in unemployment is really moderate. For those people who are not unemployed the increase is moderate, but for those people who are unemployed the increase is terrific. This is an important matter which we must consider.