

we probably would not have had as many strikes as we have had. Do not get me wrong, Mr. Speaker. I am not saying that the leaders in the labour movement are angels or that all the unions do the right thing all the time. But they never make one tenth or one hundredth the number of mistakes the government has made since 1968 in the so-called just society which we have never seen, or in the judges' society, as someone said.

As a member from the maritimes I say this can only result in the destruction of any hopes workers might have had in my area that there would be a chance to catch up with workers in the more prosperous parts of our country. Not only is there the fear that this will be the case, but we have the hard evidence. It is indeed the fact, as has been shown by the Anti-Inflation Board in its reaction to the Irving settlement. Those employees will not get what their employer felt they had a right to receive, and which their union felt they had a right to receive. The board has served notice on other employers in the maritimes and in Canada that they better not try to provide increases over the proposed guidelines or they will face the additional financial losses that the Irving Company must now pay to the tune of \$125,000.

Some time ago the Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald) said his proposed legislation would be frightening. Man, was he ever right! As the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Hamilton) said, to the extent that it is necessary to bring in more and more rules and government controls, where does it stop? During the remarks made by the hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain, the empty barrel, the Liberal whip, kept saying that Muir agrees with him. I do not know what he speaks about half the time but I wish, Mr. Speaker, you would suggest that he might use what little brains he has.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCleave):** The hon. member for St. Boniface (Mr. Guay) on a point of order.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** It is not a point of order, Mr. Speaker. It will be a point of privilege. I would like to say to the hon. gentlemen who has been speaking that if my constituency received one third of what he has received in his over the last eight years I would not get up in the House and say anything.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCleave):** Order, please. I realize that this is intended to be a wide-ranging debate because of the very nature of inflation, but some of the exchanges which seem to have developed around the hon. member who has the floor do not seem to be quite within the spirit of even a wide-ranging debate. The hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys.

● (2140)

**Mr. Muir:** As usual, the point of order or question of privilege was as phony as the hon. member himself. There was no question of privilege there and no point of order.

If things are as bright as the hon. member says they are in my constituency in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and in the Atlantic provinces, why do we have at present unemployment in Cape Breton Island of 25 per cent to 30 per cent? Let him answer that.

**Mr. Landers:** Answer it yourself.

### *Anti-Inflation Act*

**Mr. Muir:** The juvenile member for Saint John-Lancaster (Mr. Landers) will not be around here too long, so he can interject. He can make his maiden speech from his bottom also, but he better get to his own seat before he does it.

As I said, this legislation only serves to increase the degree of regional economic disparity we now face, but that is not something new, for in Cape Breton Island we are facing unemployment that is even more extreme, I suggest, and more chronic than was the fate of our people during the dirty thirties.

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** Keep on reading.

**Mr. Muir:** At least I have notes and make some sense, which is more than the member does.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Muir:** All this under the just society of the musing Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau). Remember that just society we heard so much about? We do not hear much about it any more. The new member in the back row opposite is trying to take part in this debate. We have not seen him around very much. The just society is not in existence any more and it has not been since 1968, but the number of those who join the army of the unemployed increases rather than decreases.

Whether you work or are unemployed, these days in Nova Scotia it has almost reached the point where you cannot afford the luxury of living in our area. The power bills with which people are faced today provide them with the prospect of seeing the often quoted phrase of last year "let them freeze in the dark" become a reality for the people of my constituency in Cape Breton and all of Nova Scotia. We have received neither support nor protection from this legislation which tells workers they can only expect wage increases of 8 per cent, 10 per cent or 12 per cent, yet they see their power bills increase 50 per cent, 100 per cent or 150 per cent.

We do not even receive as much as a consoling word from the Grit appointees on the Anti-Inflation Board who must try to run protection for our globe trotting premier who is so seldom in Nova Scotia that he has little real appreciation of the plight of the people whom he is supposed to be protecting. The grim realities of life in Nova Scotia are that premier Gerald Regan and his government's policies, coupled with the decisions of the Anti-Inflation Board, are quickly putting into effect the philosophy and policies recommended by Walter Gordon in his infamous royal commission report that we buy one-way tickets for our people to other parts of Canada. This policy is being put into action more effectively than anything that has happened in the close to 19 years during which I have been here as a member of the House.

Instead of policies which give us hope, we get kicked in the teeth over and over again. For every step we manage to take forward we find that federal government legislation takes us two steps backward. Is it any wonder one sometimes reaches the almost inescapable conclusion that there is no one in Ottawa who gives a damn for our area and our people?