

hands or their brains, are a part of human society. To say that some mystic middle class is the backbone of something is simply to exhibit one's ignorance both of the human anatomy and of society as a whole.

I now wish to refer to another serious matter.

Mr. MAYHEW: I am pleased to hear that what the hon. member has just said was not serious.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: I said "another serious matter". I am glad the Minister of Finance has a spokesman in his place who may be able to answer some of the arguments I am using. If the parliamentary assistant disagrees with this, he will have an opportunity to contradict it.

I say very plainly that the present Minister of Finance is more responsible than anyone else for having wrecked the price control system in this country. No one denies that. I say also that he has been aided and abetted in doing so by hon. members on both sides of the house. Not all the reactionaries are in the official opposition; although the opposition are blessed with a good percentage, there are some on the government side. Also there are some progressive thinking people on the government side. Some of the back benchers on the government side—

Mr. JACKMAN: Don't forget to add us.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: Yes, I shall be glad to include the hon. member's party later on in the right category. There are some progressive thinking members on the Liberal side of the house who have brought to the attention of the government the seriousness of the scuttling of the price control system and have warned them that it is time to do something to make good their pledges of a new social order.

Listening to the hon. member for Kenora-Rainy River (Mr. Benidickson) yesterday afternoon I was pleased with that part of his speech in which he advocated that the government do not sit around and wait until the Drew-Duplessis axis makes up its mind what it is going to do, to make agreements for social security with the other provinces. But unfortunately the reactionaries on the government side occupy the front benches at the moment. What has happened is that there is confusion not only in the cabinet itself but on the whole Liberal side of the house. Watching their difficulties I am reminded of a poem written by Macaulay entitled "Horatius". Hon. members will remember the epic story of how three men held the bridge to Rome while the hordes were trying to attack it, and there was a point at which the attacking hordes were badly confused—which puts

me in mind of the way the government is acting today. I will quote this verse, and I think there is much point to it:

Was none who would be foremost
To lead such dire attack:
But those behind cried "Forward!"
And those before cried "Back!"
And backward now and forward
Wavers the deep array;
And on the tossing sea of steel,
To and fro the standards reel;
And the victorious trumpet-peal
Dies fitfully away.

The Prime Minister sounded the trumpet peal in 1942 when he said the era of freedom will be found only when social security and human welfare become the main concern of men and nations. I am afraid that bugle peal has died fitfully away.

Now I want to go on with what I was saying about price control. Although the government is responsible for having destroyed the price structure in this country, nevertheless all of us in this house have a certain amount of responsibility for the advice that we give to the government, in so far as they carry it out. To that extent the official opposition is responsible for the advice it has given to the government, and which I am afraid has been too well carried out. In checking over some of the clippings I have saved up I find that, on the question of price control, the official opposition appear to have taken three different stands. I think they are to be congratulated on having added something new.

In the first place the leader of that party, the hon. member for Neepawa (Mr. Bracken) speaking in the Portage la Prairie by-election and appealing to the voters of that constituency for their support of the candidate who is now the member for Portage la Prairie (Mr. Miller), used these words to appeal for their votes on the question of price control, as reported in the *Winnipeg Tribune* of October 19, 1946—a paper which I am given to understand is not opposed to the Progressive Conservative party. He said this:

Mr. Miller's election will have no effect whatever on government controls, because his views, stated on every platform, are in entire accord with the government's stated plan.

There is one stand on which he appealed to the voters.

Mr. MERRITT: What is the date of that?

Mr. ZAPLITNY: October 19, 1946.

Mr. KNOWLES: It is authentic.

Mr. ZAPLITNY: His appeal to the voters was that the Progressive Conservative price control policy was exactly that of the government. I wish to quote from the hon.