

(Translation):

wheat per prairie farmer. If everything is in order, why should there be a refusal to appoint a royal grain inquiry commission? I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, there are many items I have not mentioned in the house so far this session that would be brought to light as not having been in the interests of the wheat producers of western Canada. Again I ask for the appointment of such a commission.

I ask that the proposal to increase the sales tax from 8 to 10 per cent be withdrawn by the Minister of Finance, because it distinctly adds to the burden of the cost of living in this country and to the cost of production, especially for the farmers. I ask also that when the special committee is appointed later to study amendments to the Dominion Elections Act, 1938, provision be made by amendment for the transferable vote. Our election act is antiquated, and should be brought up to date.

I should like to refer to the result of a Gallup poll published in the press on Saturday, April 14. The heading is: "Much Profiteering in Canada? Three-quarters think there is". I will not quote the article. It can be found in the Montreal *Daily Star* for April 14 and in other daily papers of that date throughout the nation. The result of the poll of average citizens throughout Canada is that 75 per cent believe there is undue profiteering at the present time.

I will certainly support the amendment moved by my colleague, the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Macdonnell). If you will permit me, sir, I shall read it at this time. It is to be found at page 2053 of *Hansard*, and is as follows:

That all the words after "that" to the end of the question be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"the proposals of the Minister of Finance are unsatisfactory because they will inevitably increase the cost of living for all and especially for those least able to bear it.

This house condemns in particular, as inflationary, the increase by 25 per cent of the general sales tax and is of the opinion that the increase is unnecessary and unwise.

This house further condemns the heavy increase in excise taxes on certain essential commodities and is of the opinion that much of the government's proposed huge increase in taxation is due to its own extravagance."

An hon. Member: You do not believe that.

Mr. Ross (Souris): I continue:

"This house regrets the failure of the government to take effective steps to deal with profiteering."

Somebody says that I do not believe it. I wish I had time to enumerate the many instances of wasteful expenditure of money that should rightfully have been saved for the taxpayers.

Mr. Robert Cauchon (Beauharnois): Mr. Speaker, during this tragic hour in the history of the world, when human rights are disregarded or flouted in so many different conflicts, it is pleasant to be living in a country such as ours. It is indeed pleasant to be living in Canada, this huge expanse where stout-hearted people grow amidst security, because of an excellent administrative system that guarantees the highest degree of individual freedom as well as the full flowering of their activities, in their march towards progress, to which the unlimited resources of their country entitle them to aspire.

Canada is a great and beautiful land; it is truly a land privileged amongst all others, one towards which the economists say the eyes of the whole world are now turned.

I do not believe that I will mislead the hon. members of this house when I say that, in these modern times, Canada sets an example to the various countries of the world, as the stronghold of democratic liberties. Let us not forget that this remarkable fact, which goes unnoticed by none, never fails to stimulate the curiosity of foreigners, from the very moment they set foot upon our hospitable soil. We must admit, without fear of contradiction, that Canada is truly a privileged country and that, consequently, its citizens are entitled to consider themselves as particularly favoured by Providence.

It so happens that within this immense and extraordinary country which is this dearly beloved Canada of ours, there is a bit of land of which, as a member of this house, I am particularly fond. It has rightly claimed the better part of my being and thus fastened upon itself my constant and devoted attention. This constituency, Mr. Speaker, of which I am justly proud, to which I can promise my selfless support and sincere devotion, this constituency which is making such strides forward and shows such great promise of future greatness, whose present prosperity is beyond doubt and which is so remarkable from every point of view, this constituency whose picturesque vistas and truly great resources make it so attractive to tourists, this constituency which belongs to a province which was one of the earliest to join confederation and which borders, for the most part, on our majestic St. Lawrence is the constituency of Beauharnois which I am introducing to you today with feelings of sincere admiration.

As I said a moment ago, the constituency is prosperous in spite of depression periods