

Mr. Stanfield: I know it is a poor record, but it is better than the one the minister has shown in the past year.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Stanfield: Why does the OECD recommend to its member countries that they should do something like this in order to contain their domestic inflation?

In the coming election, sir, Grits, Supergrits, Truegrits and all the other Grits will invent every conceivable misrepresentation as to what we intend to do. The Prime Minister gave us an example of that last night. Let me repeat my assurance that nobody in this country will be mistreated by the program we intend to implement. I have stated that the freeze phase of our program would apply for a maximum of 90 days. The flexible controls which would follow for 1½ years to two years—and these would assure special consideration to low income earners, as I have said many times—would also ensure that no one would be held to anything less than the cost of living increase.

An hon. Member: What about farmers?

Mr. Stanfield: And to productivity increases as well.

An hon. Member: How about farmers?

Mr. Stanfield: I can only make things so simple; apparently I cannot make them simple enough for some people on the other side.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

● (1710)

Mr. Stanfield: The price side of the program would deal properly and firmly with profiteering, not in the absurd and ineffective way put forward by the government. I say that to work, this program has to be fair and seem to be fair. I say it will work because it is a fair and equitable program. I believe that inflation is serious enough in this country today that Canadians will welcome and rally behind this meaningful program.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: We need to get on with the task of reducing inflationary expectations and the rate of inflation as soon as possible. Part of that process involves a defeat of this government, dissolution of this parliament and an election.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: The Prime Minister views this a regrettable interruption in some undefined, great process which he thinks is under way. I do not see any point in prolonging a process which features the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand) throwing up his hands and saying, "It's a mess." I do not see any point in prolonging a process featuring the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Andras) denying the country an inquiry into unemployment insurance. I certainly do not see any benefit to Canadians in prolonging the life of a government that

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looks at two-figure inflation and says that nothing can really be done about it.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stanfield: Therefore, Mr. Speaker, we hope in a few hours time to see an end to a tired and crumbling government.

An hon. Member: A few hours?

Mr. Stanfield: I say a few hours because we have to give the man time to get to Government House and all that sort of thing. It will be an end which I am confident will lead this country to a new and better beginning. Without any presumption as to what the vote will be, Mr. Speaker, I want to take this occasion to thank you and the other officers of the House for the dedicated service you have given to this parliament.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the House for this widespread acclaim. I am not sure where the applause for the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) ended and mine began.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas: The House is in good humour. Yesterday and today we listened to speeches by leaders of each of the four political parties in this House. I think it will make interesting reading for the future because they characterize both the men who made them and the parties for which they spoke. I was very much interested in following the speech made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) who seemed to spend a large part of his time trying to determine who was responsible for the fact that the spectre of an imminent election haunted this House. I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that the person who is most responsible for the fact that we face a general election is the Prime Minister.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas: I noticed that the Prime Minister was trying to be a bit of an amateur psychiatrist. He does not do a very good job of being Prime Minister. He ought to stay out of the psychiatry business, although I must say he has excellent clientele with whom to work.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Douglas: When the Prime Minister says the reason we are having an election is that the leader and members of this party cannot stand the strain of holding the balance of power, I want to point out that he has a very poor memory. With the exception of the years 1968-72 we have had a minority parliament in Canada since 1962. The only time we did not have a minority parliament was the four-year period after the present Prime Minister became leader of his party. By the way, they were the four most unproductive and arrogant years the parliament of this country has ever seen.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!