

referred to by a member opposite, the hon. member for York East (Mr. Otto), is at an all-time high in Canada. Municipal taxes have become an increasing burden in almost every part of Canada. This problem has become so acute that some provincial governments have put in motion legislation to refund a part of the municipal tax burden.

Interest rates have gone up. We have had a return of tight money such as this country has not seen since hon. gentlemen opposite were in office prior to 1957. Farm machinery and production machinery have reached all-time record prices. All of these things add to the responsibilities of those who carry a dinner pail and work for a living, not to mention those who have to rely on fixed incomes.

I submit, sir, that these things have not happened accidentally. The government opposite, having destroyed the confidence of Canadians in the former government, set out deliberately and systematically upon the course it has followed to bring about the high cost economy that we have in Canada today.

Hon. members opposite are the ones who have boosted interest rates of National Housing Act mortgages, adding to the cost of owning a home. I submit that this deliberate action results, even if payments are amortized over a longer period of time, even if down payments are lowered, in adding to the cost of living. That action takes away something from the man who carries a dinner pail. Hon. gentlemen opposite have also raised interest rates on some of the loans to farmers. That could not have been done other than deliberately and knowing that it would increase the cost of production. I believe that the record bears out the belief that higher interest rates have been part of the government's policy which it embarked on deliberately three years ago.

During the election campaign, sir, we heard about this man who cares. I ask you, sir, where is this man who cares? Where is this man who was talked about throughout the election campaign? The only time that we see him in the house is during the question period or when he comes in to applaud some particular piece of business in which he outlines—

● (5:40 p.m.)

Mr. Sharp: To whom is the hon. member referring?

Mr. Nasserden: I am referring to the Prime Minister of this country.

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The Budget—Mr. Nasserden

Mr. Sharp: Then those are scandalous remarks and you should be ashamed of yourself.

Mr. Nasserden: I say to the Minister of Finance that that kind of arrogance—

Mr. Sharp: It is you who are arrogant.

Mr. Nasserden: The government might have been able to get away with it if they had been able to deliver the goods as far as legislation is concerned—

Mr. Chrétien: He is not going to spend his time listening to you.

Mr. Mackasey: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, earlier you called the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration to order because he had departed from discussing the amendment. I should like to ask Your Honour what this personal attack on the Prime Minister has to do with the amendment now before us. What is the purpose, under the guise of a discussion on the Budget, of this attack on the Prime Minister who is not present in the house at the moment, and this attempt to reintroduce the type of atmosphere which has existed here for far too long?

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Nasserden: We are used to hearing these things from the hon. member for Verdun. But if he does not realize that the Prime Minister has failed to deal effectively with problems involving the daily lives of our people then he has not been doing the job for which he was sent to this House of Commons.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Sharp: If that is all you can talk about you should sit down.

Mr. Nasserden: In any consideration of the Budget one cannot help but think of the leadership given to a nation. I well recall how in former debates when the Budget was under consideration in this house the decisiveness of the then prime minister and the leadership given to this country were questioned by those who now sit on the front benches opposite. I ask you, sir, to look at the record and consider whether we have had the type of decisive leadership during the last three years of this administration to which the country is entitled.

I notice that the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) is not here. I wish he were because he is one of those who, above all