

Anti-Inflation Act

they will put up with things, but as soon as the time expires they will increase prices again in order to recover the money they did not obtain.

It seems that the proposed period of time should be considered in the same way as the last war, when people thought it might last for only three or four years but once they realized it was going to be longer they made an all-out effort in the direction of winning. They then made an all-out effort against what they considered the common enemy. Let me use that small island's symbol again: I hope the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) is saving his blood, sweat and tears speech to convince the people, if it becomes necessary, that we have to fight the battle over the long haul to the end.

I think we underestimate the Canadian public if we do not ask the people to put forward their best effort at this time. I think we underestimate ourselves if we think we are not ready to stand and take the barbs, the kicks, the hits and the jabs, whether they come from the media or from the public. I think the media is about ready for a lesson. I suspect that soon they will be hearing the public say that we want to hear something positive about this war and something positive about our future, and we are not going to accept anything less. I believe there are members in this House from all parties who are prepared to go ahead in that fashion. I have no doubt that all parties will be represented in this before it is over. I welcome the fact that in the heat of conflict the spark of truth is blown. I welcome the criticisms which come in this direction, whether they come from the NDP, the Conservatives, the Social Crediters or from within the Liberal ranks. I believe it is important to have this criticism.

I think the bill of the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacDonald) will come forward as a bill which we will stand for and support. We will not only go forward as a government, but will go forward as a parliament which took this decision at this time.

● (1540)

An hon. Member: A backward one.

Mr. MacFarlane: No. Some people may go backward, but I prefer to go forward because I like to see where I am going. I might fall over, otherwise. I am not really interested in rhetoric now. I am trying to say honestly how I and the people in my riding feel. It is not easy to speak for a riding one end of which possibly resembles an area like Westmount in Montreal and another area that is sort of like an Outremont or another area which is possibly like Verdun on the Island of Montreal, or Point St. Charles. We have a mix of people which includes union people, people who run their own businesses and people who have academic and professional careers. It is difficult for all of them to see things the same way, but hon. members may rest assured that they are united behind the kind of leadership they will receive.

It is a matter of whether we are willing to go forward at this point. We cannot always go the way we want. I do not say there is one correct answer, nor do I say there could be one answer. However, there is an answer for the Canadian public. The answer is that every time the government proposes, instead of parliament disposing we just have a

game of chess. We have no time for a game of chess now. There is no point in checkmating or in deciding to move our rook in one direction, just for a little game, to delay bills. This is a time when we have no desire in a crude way to shove anything down the throat of the opposition.

We say that many people have asked for leadership. Whether hon. members opposite think we on this side of the House are the leaders, or whether our government is the leader, really is unimportant. This is where the responsibility rests, and that is why the bill is coming forward from here. In coming forward, it gives all of us the opportunity to have something to say about how we should proceed in these dreadful days. These are the best and the worst times. We should remember that. We should not for one instant fall weak to the very thing that has caused it. The fact is, we are living quite well; things are going well for some of us. We must think of those people at the lower end of the scale and those people who have no real power to express themselves.

This is where I find, in my riding, I can turn to the labour unions and to the workers with great confidence. I receive phone calls from them every day, in which they express concern and a spirit of willingness to co-operate because they, more than others, recognize that in their unions they work together and have the power to achieve for themselves. Yet they realize there are other people who cannot achieve for themselves. Those people are at the mercy of what is happening to those of us who are more fortunate.

I really believe we can expect from every decent Canadian the kind of support that will make this control system work. It is not supposed to be easy. It never was easy to take a bitter pill or bad medicine. In fact, when one takes an aspirin it does not get rid of the disease or the germ, but sometimes the aspirin lets one get on a little further with life and do something important. Then sometimes one can treat the germ.

So we must remember at this moment that this is the bad, tough medicine that has been offered to the country by this government, without fear, with responsibility and with willingness to face the full consequences of that responsibility. We are asking only one thing. We are not asking for complete agreement on the part of people on the other side. We are not asking the media to roll over and play dead. But we sure as hell are asking that they treat it as seriously as we do, and that they come forward and say we are in serious times. In these serious times we should be thinking seriously about the matter, and not playing chess or moving back and forth to see who can gain a moment of political opportunity. These are important things. There are very few new things in the world that I have seen.

Mr. Woolliams: I wonder whether the hon. member would honour a question.

Mr. MacFarlane: No, I would not honour a question at this moment. With due respect—although I am sorry—I think I would rather conclude what I have to say.

An hon. Member: You like making speeches.

Mr. MacFarlane: I think I should answer that comment. I tell you, without any embarrassment whatsoever, that