

★ A 90-day price freeze on everything but farm products was called for this week by Conservative Leader Robert Stanfield. The reasoning behind such a measure is explained here by James Gillies, right, MP for Metro's Don Valley riding and Conservative spokesman on financial affairs.



A 90-day price freeze is only a good start says economic expert

By JAMES GILLIES

There is no argument that inflation is the most significant domestic economic issue in Canada.

The immediate personal impact of inflation is felt by everyone, but the total impact of inflation on the economy, and upon groups within the economy, varies tremendously.

For people on fixed incomes an increase in the cost of living is particularly burdensome.

For people with pension programs and saving it means that their programs of the past will be far from adequate to meet their needs in the future. And for young people wishing to buy a home it means that they are priced out of the market.

Granted that inflation is a serious problem, what should be done about it? Three positions are advocated.

First, it is claimed that there is very little that Canada can do by itself to moderate domestic inflation because inflation is a world-wide problem. Consequently, it is alleged that all government can do is to attempt to adjust pension programs, housing subsidies and other payments so that the people most badly hurt by the increases in the cost-of-living are partially protected.

While it is true that inflation is a world-wide problem, it doesn't follow that Canada can do nothing about domestic inflation. In fact, in 1970, inflation in many countries was greater than in Canada and in 1972 when some countries were reducing their rate of inflation the Canadian rate increased.

The second approach to solving the problem, and the one that has dominated economic policy making in Canada over the years, is to slow down the rate of economic activity in the country.

Underlying this approach is the idea that increases in the cost-of-living are caused primarily by too much demand in the country and that if, for example, taxes and interest rates are raised and, in fact, a recession is created, price increases will slow down.

This was the policy followed in Canada in the early 1970s and it resulted in unemployment of over 7 per cent.

Enormous waste

Surely such policy is unacceptable.

It leads to enormous waste through lost production, and most importantly it works against solving the underlying forces creating inflation. Since it results in high mortgage rates, it slows down the production of housing space at the very time when an increase in housing supply is badly needed.

The third approach is to adopt a direct action program designed to attack many of the causes of inflation where they occur—a program of compulsory control over income and price increases where such increases are not related to increases in productivity or costs.

But would such a program work? Would it merely attack symptoms rather than causes? Would it require a mass of bureaucrats to operate? What does it involve?

While the details of the operation of an incomes policy, as such programs of incomes and price controls are now widely known, vary, they generally take the following form.

First, for a period of from 60 to 90 days, all prices, incomes, wages, rents, dividends and profits, with the exception of the price of fresh

farm produce at the farm gate, which for administrative reasons cannot be controlled, are frozen.

The purpose of the freeze is three-fold:

1) To show forcefully that the federal government is determined to bring the escalating inflation under control—that rapidly rising prices are not going to be a characteristic feature of the Canadian economy;

2) To avoid any increases in wages, incomes, prices or other factors while the details of the longer run program are being worked out;

3) to permit time to settle with provincial, industrial, agricultural, labor and consumer leaders the details of the on-going program.

The freeze period should be as short as possible so that no group in society is held in an inequitable position for any prolonged period of time.

A freeze will not, of course, eliminate the causes of inflation. It must be followed immediately by a second phase designed to hold changes in incomes and wages to an agreed-upon general rate of increase and price changes to allowable changes in costs.

Power of suppliers

The fact is that in our complex industrial society many prices, costs, wages and incomes are not determined by competition in the market place but by the power of suppliers. It is this cost and price pressure, which has both direct and indirect impact on the general level of inflation, that an incomes policy is designed to eliminate.

The program would not require a mass of bureaucrats to operate.

Indeed, a small incomes stabilization board to determine general policy using present staff and facilities of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and the Department of National Revenue would be capable of administering the program.

There is little parallel between the type of administration required for an incomes policy (designed to prevent unjustified increases in prices and incomes caused by lack of competition for labor, materials, or services) and the rationing program required because of shortages during wartime.

An incomes policy, if it is to work, must be supplemented by appropriate tax, expenditure, interest rate and production policies.

If a government constantly increases its expenditures and finances them through increasing the money supply, no type of incomes policy will work. If a government periodically permits interest rates to increase to such an extent that residential construction is brought to a halt, then of course, housing prices will continue to increase. And if a government operates subsidy programs to limit agricultural production, then food prices will increase.

Surely economic policy must not be made on the basis of some preconceived notion of how the economy ought to work. Policy must be geared to solve the problems people face now—and the greatest domestic economic problem facing Canadians today is the impact that inflation is having on their lives.

Now is the time to implement an incomes policy to help secure for Canadians what they have every right to expect—full employment with relatively stable prices.

The rising wave of runaway wives

'Women are liberating themselves--they say to heck with it and leave'

By SIDNEY KATZ
Star staff writer

The note pinned to his pillow said:

"There's no use in going on with this stupid marriage. I'm sure you're unhappy as I am. Don't look for us. Maybe I'll call you in a few weeks.—Sharon."

Add one more man to the brotherhood of deserted husbands, a fast growing group.

In the past it was nearly always the man who walked away from a distasteful domestic situation. Today the runaway wife is a familiar figure to welfare, police and government officials. Sometimes the women even leave their children behind.

Sharon's case is common.

Her husband was her first serious boy friend. She started going with him when she was 18 and six months later she was pregnant. She suggested an abortion; he said he would marry her. That was four years ago. Looking back, she could now see that it was not a gesture of love but one of self-sacrifice.

Physical abuse

After the birth of the child everything she did displeased him. The child was neglected, he said, the house was dirty, her cooking was tasteless. When in a foul mood he would say to her, "You were a slut and I married you to make you respectable."

Then came the drinking, which in turn led to almost constant quarrelling from the moment he returned the apartment at night until he departed the next morning for work. In the last few months of their life together he had added physical abuse to his word lashings. The night before she left he had slapped her across the face while the couple next door were visiting. That was the last straw. She took off the next day with her 4-year-old son.

Women like Sharon leave their homes because they are unwilling to remain part of a union in which they feel neglected, abused and enslaved. Before the days of women's liberation many of those women did not leave home.

But, says Lynn Zimmer, "It's simply untrue that women are deserting their husbands because of the ideas put forth by the women's lib movement."

Lynn Zimmer is co-director of Interval House, a rambling old residence at 173 Spadina Rd. that was opened five months ago to offer temporary accommodation to women who have left their families, and is always filled to capacity.

"They're escaping a sick situation that they should have run away from a long time ago. Our support only makes it possible for them to make the big leap."

Wife wants out

William Whyte of the Metro Family Service Association backs up that statement with statistics:

"Among our clients receiving marriage counselling," he says, "chances are 10 to 1 that it's the wife who wants to break up the marriage."

When Whyte analyzed 100 cases of recent desertions that had occurred within the Toronto city limits he came up with these unexpected findings:

In 34 cases it was difficult to determine which partner had deserted. Of the remaining 66 families, it was definitely the wife who walked out in 51 instances. Furthermore, in four cases the deserting wife left her children behind, something that rarely happened as recently as 10 or 15 years ago.

According to the best estimates, about 4,000 wives across Canada vanish from their homes each year. That estimate is probably on the conservative side, says Sgt. Jack Evans, head of the Metro police missing person's bureau. "Men feel sheepish about being deserted and so often fail to report it," he says.

Several factors account for the

proliferation of the number of runaway wives. Perhaps most important is that a growing number of women are unwilling to remain part of an unhappy union.

"Women are liberating themselves," says Jean Woodsworth, director of the Victoria Day Care Services. "They say the heck with it and walk out." They can take this step because they are confident that they won't starve. They are either trained to work, or, failing that, there are welfare and counselling services available in the community.

Several women interviewed by The Star mentioned high-rise suburban living as a contributing factor in their decision to desert.

Beryl, 25, explained that she had been trapped in her 10th floor apartment with her two children most of the day. There was an absence of safe play facilities for the youngsters. Lack of convenient transportation compounded her sense of isolation. Noise seeped into her apartment from the surrounding tenants.

"The result of this accumulated tension was apparent in the laundry room," said Beryl. "There were always a number of distraught women shouting at their kids: 'Shut up or I'll kill you.'"

An interviewer who recently investigated the marriages of several women who had fled from their husbands had little difficulty in understanding their motivation.

Laura, an intense, attractive woman of 30, married Ted nine years ago. She was deeply in love with him and looked forward to helping him build his professional career and raising a family.

One vacation

After four years of marriage there were unmistakable signs that things would be otherwise. Ted became progressively more interested in his work and less interested in his wife. He worked till 10 or 11 every night as well as most weekends. The family's social life was restricted to entertaining business clients. They had only one vacation in their nine years of marriage.

Laura seldom had more than two or three dollars in her purse after buying groceries. Her demand for money for clothes for herself or her twin daughters—now 7 years old— invariably resulted in a quarrel.

"For the first three or four years, I didn't complain," recalled Laura. "Then I realized that things were growing worse. There was never a word of appreciation or kindness from him. Birthdays and anniversaries were never remembered. His language became abusive. Once, he threw me down the stairs because I forgot to send his suit to the cleaners."

On two occasions Laura decided to run away, without her children, so that he would realize all that she had been doing, unassisted for the past several years.

"I'd drive five or 10 miles and then turn back," she said. "I didn't want my kids to be at the mercy of that man."

Finally, after an ugly incident, she waited for her husband to go to work, packed the children in the car and drove to a friend's house.

"It was a matter of survival," she said. "My health was beginning to break down under the pressure. How much misery can you take? I was hospitalized twice by illnesses caused by my husband."

'Over-attentive'

Evelyn, a quiet, shy woman who looks much younger than her 24 years, explained that her problem was quite different. "My husband was over-attentive."

"He was obsessed by the idea that all other men were out to seduce me or rape me," she said.

Before going out she had to pass inspection to make sure her clothes weren't provocative. At night he constantly checked to make sure that the upstairs blinds were pulled



A RUNAWAY WIFE, with her child, talks to Lynn Zimmer, who helps run Interval House, a temporary

home on Spadina Rd. for the increasing number of women leaving home because of unhappy marriages.

down so that nobody outside would see Evelyn disrobed.

When she took a bath he would stand guard inside the bathroom to ward off possible attackers. He was insanely jealous of tradesmen who came to the house.

For the same reason it was impossible to make friends with other couples their age.

"George thought that all the husbands were trying to get me into bed," said Evelyn. Unable to endure his constant surveillance any longer, she fled.

Furtive departure

Usually the deserting wife's departure has been a furtive one. "Lord knows what my husband would have done to me if I told him I was leaving," said a plump 22-year old brunette living in Interval House. "He has a fiendish temper."

After a few days or a week, when they feel their spouses have cooled off, many wives will phone their husbands but not reveal their whereabouts, lest the men come after them and try to obtain custody of the children if offspring are involved. Others maintain silence.

"It's hard to find a deserting wife who doesn't want to return home," said Cy Verge of the Acadian Investigation Bureau of Toronto. Verge, who has been tracing missing people for 14 years, says that four out of every 10 missing marriage partners are now women.

"The typical male deserter," he explains, "has more of an identity that makes it possible to pinpoint him. He has a trade or profession, he has a driving license, credit cards and all the rest of it. But a woman who's stayed at home being a wife . . . He throws up his hands in a gesture of helplessness."

There are no long-term, accurate follow-up studies of what happens ultimately to the runaway wife.

Records kept at Interval House indicate that a significant proportion return to their husbands after

an absence of from four to six weeks. Usually it's the husband who's pushing strongly for a reunion. He's generous with his promises—yes, I'll go to a marriage counselor with you; yes, I'll spend more time with you and the children; yes, I'll cut down on my drinking.

The woman often succumbs to his blandishments because of the harsh facts of life. It's difficult for the average woman to raise a family alone and work. The alternative is existing on some form of public welfare. If she's a middle class woman it means forsaking such accustomed comforts as her own home, a car and other amenities.

The childless, runaway wife is more likely to continue going it alone. She gets a job and chances are high that she'll form an attachment to another man.

Some—probably most—of the deserting wives who left children behind are wracked by painful periods of remorse and guilt. Yet attempts to see or regain their children may lead to an embarrassing and unpleasant involvement with the father and perhaps the law.

They're exhilarated

Not all mothers, of course, possess the "maternal instinct." They're exhilarated by their new freedom. Child care, for them, was always an unpleasant, unfulfilling burden.

"Something else I've noticed," says William Whyte of the Family Service Association, "is that a number of women who abandon their homes have homosexual tendencies. They're far more interested in friendships and attachments to other women than in their husbands and children."

The growing number of deserting wives has focused attention on the plight of the deserted husband, particularly in families with children.

The most important and pressing problem he faces is: "How do I

raise a family alone while I'm working at a regular job?"

An abandoned father, who has three sons aged 3, 4 and 7, described his daily routine:

Up at 6. Awaken the children and see that they're washed, dressed and fed. Get the eldest boy off to school and deliver the two youngest to the day care centre. Drive to the plant, six miles away.

No loitering with the boys after work in order to get to the day care centre by 5.30. The woman next door has been keeping her eye on his eldest boy since his return from school at 3.30.

Too exhausted

Get supper. Talk to the children and find out what's been happening. Wash them, get them to bed. By now it's 9 o'clock. If not too exhausted, he wants to go out, get hold of a babysitter somewhere.

Somehow, time must be found to shop for groceries and clothes, to do the laundry, to take the children on an outing and visits to the doctor, etc., etc.

"Maybe it'll ease off when the kids are older," the father says. "But I've been living this way for eight months and it's hell."

The deserted father's job could be simplified by hiring an efficient housekeeper, but few men can afford that. As a substitute some men arrange for a woman with a child or two but no husband, to live in and assume responsibility for running the home. It seldom works.

"I've known men who have gone through a half dozen housekeepers in a year," says Archie Andrew of the Family Service Association.

Another solution is to place the children in temporary care, either with a family of one's personal choice or through the Children's Aid Society. Despite the hardships, many fathers resist this step. For, contrary to myth, the "paternal instinct" is widespread among the male of the species.

The hidden requirement for York's next head is Canadian citizenship

By DONNA DILSCHNEIDER
Star staff writer

No one's taking any bets at this stage on who will be the next president of York University, but one thing seems certain: York will hire a Canadian.

That won't be a formal requirement.

When a professor tried recently to get the university senate to make citizenship a prerequisite for the job, the motion was rejected by a vote of three to one.

"There's not much chance that we will appoint a non-Canadian," says geography professor John Marshall, who made the unsuccessful motion. "But the matter itself is important and I thought a lot of people had not thought the issue through."

To deal effectively with government, says Marshall, a Scot who became a Canadian citizen, a university president "must be thor-

oughly familiar with the Canadian and Ontario way of doing things—with the Canadian way of running higher education."

And the president must be strongly committed to Canada and to important local traditions, he adds.

Marshall believes that most people at York want a Canadian for president but don't want to come out into the open and say so. He'd like to see citizenship clearly stated as a requirement so as to leave no doubt in the minds of the public or of potential candidates.

His attempt to do so was defeated, he says, by "a superficial nationalist attitude: an attitude that we're citizens of the world and want no such parochial criteria; that we all know the president should be Canadian but we don't need to make any such public statement, that the citizenship requirement should be implicit, not explicit."

The task of finding candidates is

in the hands of a university committee, headed by fine arts professor Mavor Moore, who doesn't think it's necessary to confine the search to Canadians.

"The more convinced you are of the common sense of having a Canadian, the less necessary it is to make laws about it," he says.

"If you confined the choice to Canadians, there would be a great deal less prestige attached to it than if it's an open choice. Winning a Canadian championship is not quite as good as winning a world championship."

Moore's committee, representing staff, students and the board of governors, is in the process of compiling a list of possible candidates for the university's top job, now held on an acting basis by John Yoltan.

Yoltan, a philosopher and an American, took the temporary post in January after David Slater resigned in his third year as presi-

dent, defeated by York's financial problems and a virtual palace revolt over the way he was handling them.

"It was quite clear the board wanted a non-candidate," says Yoltan, who considers that a wise move. It lets the acting president get on with the job of leading York through troubled times without worrying about whether he's going to get the permanent appointment.

York, financed by government grants based on enrolment, hit a financial crisis last fall because it over-estimated the number of students it would have. Yoltan says York can do without the added worry and controversy that appointing an American as president would cause.

He believes a Canadian is almost certain to be appointed, but he's opposed to barring non-Canadians because this would "offend the sensibilities of a lot of academics . . .

It has a harsh ring to the academic who likes to talk about academic freedom."

Yoltan, who remains an American after 10 years at York, says attitudes toward citizenship vary so much that it can't always be considered a measure of a person's commitment to a country. "A better measure is: What has the person done?"

When Yoltan was appointed acting president, Robert MacIntosh, chairman of York's board of governors, said it was his personal opinion that the permanent president should be a Canadian.

The board has the final authority to appoint the president and will do so from a minimum of three names to be recommended by the search committee. The names will first be presented to the senate for a guiding vote and the candidates brought to campus for public meetings.

The natural course of events and

the private prejudices of many at York will lead to the selection of a Canadian, says Ted Olson, a social science professor at York.

But Olson is impatient with senators for not stating their prejudices openly and standing on them.

"Why get a Canadian surreptitiously? Let's get one openly," he says.

Canada's largest university—the University of Toronto—is required by law to have a Canadian president. The regulation was written into the new U of T Act passed in 1971 which created a single top governing body for the university, replacing the previous board of governors and senate. The act requires that all members of the council—they're drawn from the university, alumni and general public—be Canadian citizens, and the president is an ex officio member of the council.



JOHN MARSHALL

"We won't appoint a non-Canadian"