

north in northern terms, and the government, be it federal or territorial, must listen to the people of the north. They know the problem and they know the solution.

It has often been suggested that log houses should be built in certain parts of the territories. We have big stands of timber all along the Mackenzie Valley and there are great possibilities for the building of log houses in the Great Slave Lake area. We can transport logs to northern communities where they are not available. I have looked at many log houses which were built in northern communities back in the 1920s and 1930s. They are still being lived in today. They are in almost as good a condition as when they were built in the 1920's or 1930's.

● (2040)

Log homes for the Mackenzie district is the answer for many of those communities. They fit in very well. The cost of maintenance is very low compared to a frame house. These homes last. They are very easy to heat compared with the frame houses being shipped to that part of the country. There is certainly plenty of need for this type of housing. The material and labour are available, and the cost is low.

In northern terms it is only common sense to look at log homes as a partial solution to the housing problem, at least in the western Arctic. In addition to utilizing local material and labour they would fill a local need.

I wish to deal with another program being carried out at this time. This government waits until it can let a contract for 50 or 60 houses before having them built in the south by southern contractors, and shipped to the north. Sometimes embarrassing things happen, such as the walls being unloaded in one community and the roofs in another. This has happened more than once. If we carry on with this program we will continue to have this sort of problem.

Local contractors do not have a chance to bid because these are large contractors. I feel the northern contractor should be given every opportunity to build in communities where there is a need for five, ten or 15 homes. In addition to utilizing local labour, the money for these programs would benefit the north.

I feel that is one of the most important suggestions that has been made with regard to housing. It has been suggested many times, but has never really been looked at seriously. The minister responsible for housing should take another look at this. He can see that the Territorial Housing Corporation and CMHC both seem to be lacking a policy.

There is a section in the National Housing Act which the Native Council of Canada would like to see implemented. I am referring to Section 40 which allows native people to participate in acquiring their own housing through CMHC. The section requires the signing of a federal-provincial territorial agreement. The effect of the agreement is that the costs are shared 75 per cent federal and 25 per cent provincial or territorial. In the ten months since the announcement was made by the former minister on March 10, there has been some action, but not enough. Agreements have not been signed with the Northwest Territories, the Yukon, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. This is something else that has been asked for by the Native Council of Canada.

### *National Housing Act*

I have tried to give some idea of the conditions in which we live in the Northwest Territories. I have made some suggestions as to what can be done. The most important, I believe, is that we get answers to these problems. Northerners should be listened to very carefully. Help us with some resources. Give us a policy on which to operate and we will do the rest. If it is necessary to disregard the Territorial Housing Corporation and have CMHC action, that is what we have to do. The sooner the government acts, the better. These are all the comments I will make at this time.

**Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Comox-Alberni):** Madam Speaker, I am sorry the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) is no longer in the chamber as I wish to reply to a few of the points he so ably expressed. He may not have expressed them accurately, but certainly very well.

The hon. member stated that the federal government can be thanked for the high price of land and the high cost of construction. If the hon. member had been a bit more straightforward, he would have stated that in certain provinces the high cost of land is due to a lack of foresight. The lack of serviced lots is perhaps one of the reasons why the high cost of land is a fact of Canadian life. I think this is true in the province of Ontario as well as the province of British Columbia.

A lack of planning by the British Columbia provincial government, as well as the land freeze, have cut down the amount of available land. The land freeze act has increased the value of existing lots by two or three times. I cannot see where the policy of the federal government has any bearing on the acts of the provinces.

I wish I had the freedom of movement of the hon. member for Hamilton West, quoting from newspapers and criticizing the problems we face in a very difficult economy. The economy is very difficult regardless of what political party is in power.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Anderson:** If people think the problems being faced in Canada are not being faced throughout the world, they are deluding themselves. The only thing is that we in Canada have solved our problems better than other countries.

The hon. member for Hamilton West suggested that the cure-all for the housing situation in Canada is to cut down inflation, wrestle it to the ground.

**Mr. Alexander:** You are right.

**Mr. Anderson:** There's the hon. member.

**Mr. Alexander:** I thought you were sleeping when I was speaking.

**Mr. Anderson:** I would like to state that I am, of course, in agreement with the hon. member. I also favour motherhood and apple pie and am against inflation. I notice the hon. member did not suggest that wage and price controls are the answer to inflation.

As we are discussing Bill C-46 perhaps it might be good to go over some of the terrible clauses which members