

Housing

Mr. Munro (Esquimalt-Saanich): The whole opposition raised it.

Mr. Brisco: As the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich (Mr. Munro) says, Mr. Speaker, a whole opposition day was devoted to the subject under a motion introduced by this party which made the government look sick because they had no answers. Understandably so, because they had not addressed themselves to the problem.

Today the minister said—and I feel I am not out of order on this because I am, after all, responding to the minister's remarks—that he is not going to punish the people of Quebec. In my view, because of his arrogance this minister will never cease punishing the people of Quebec, he will never cease punishing Canadians and he will never cease punishing the native peoples.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I regret I have to interrupt the hon. member. I was hoping he would notice that the Chair was ready to rise a minute or so ago. His time has expired, and unless he gets the consent of the House he will not be able to proceed.

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There is not consent, so the hon. member cannot proceed. The hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Anderson).

An hon. Member: This should be interesting.

An hon. Member: This should be a disaster.

Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I am glad some members of the opposition have already pre-judged what I am going to say. That is to be expected, because normally they do not listen anyway and I suppose today is no exception.

Mr. Speaker, there are 23 bands of native people in the riding of Comox-Alberni. I should like to say, first of all, to the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco) that I take great exception to the statement he made regarding the hovels in which native people live. The hon. member may be speaking about conditions that he has observed in his own riding, but if that is the case he should say so and name the areas in which he has seen these depressing hovels. By and large in my riding—

Mr. Brisco: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco) on a point of order.

Mr. Brisco: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Anderson) is making serious allegations about my remarks, and I should like to set the record straight. I made reference to the fact that in all parts of Canada in the past it was customary to see native shacks. I did not say that in

the context of the future or the present. If the hon. member had been paying attention, he would know that.

Mr. Anderson: I do not have *Hansard* before me, Mr. Speaker. The point I want to make is that native housing, at least in my area, can be considered the equal of, and in some cases better than, the so-called white housing in my area. Many times I have noticed this attitude of classifying native people as second-class citizens and making the point that somehow the federal government is responsible for this condition. I should like to point out to hon. members that some of our so-called white housing is not of the highest standard and for some of the other races besides white it is not of the highest standard.

I took it from the remarks of the hon. member for Kootenay West that he was speaking about the present. I have heard in this House and outside this House that somehow native people are relegated to second-class housing by a government that does not care. That is not true, and in my opinion it was never true. I trust when hon. members make those statements they will indicate where those areas are. I want to say in this House, unequivocally, that we have some of the finest native people and native housing on Vancouver Island.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Anderson: I will stand up any day of the week in this House and say that. The hon. member for Kootenay West made another fascinating statement when discussing the movement of native people from rural areas to urban areas. I hope the hon. member has considered that many other people have gone from rural areas to urban areas, whether white, black, yellow, green or whatever.

An hon. Member: There is a difference, and you know it.

Mr. Anderson: I think native people have the right to go into urban areas, rural areas or wherever they want. If they wish to move, they do so of their own volition, not mine or anyone else's. Are they different? Are they something special? I think they are the same as all of us, and I do not really wish to comment on their movement from one area of the country to another.

Mr. Ellis: You don't have any answers because you don't know what the questions are.

Mr. Anderson: The hon. member for Kootenay West also raised the question of the policies of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on native housing. He is not here now, so I hope he will read *Hansard*. During the past year the National Indian Brotherhood—and I am sure most hon. members know of the president, George Manuel—held many meetings with the department in order to have input into the housing program. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has been criticized ad nauseam for sitting in ivory towers and making policy without consulting with the native peoples. The hon. member says it has taken 18 months.