

The people of Canada should understand that we do not have a majority in this Parliament. I think there are 136 members in the government. Is that the right figure, or is it 135? We do not have a majority in this House. The Liberal party members, the NDP members and the five Social Credit members can outvote us. If they do not support us in this legislation, they can stop it. It is in their hands. We can only propose; the House of Commons disposes. The hon. gentlemen opposite may be able to prevent the home owners and the taxpayers in Canada from receiving this benefit, but I do not think for a minute that they will do that. I do not think that they could find it in their hearts to do that. We will see in due course, however, because they have been making some threatening noises.

To what does this legislation apply? It applies to a mortgage or a loan which you incur to purchase a home, or if you spend over \$5,000 in adding to or renovating a home. Only then can you deduct from your taxes under the scheme that I have outlined.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Did you say gimmick or scheme?

● (2020)

**Mr. Crosbie:** What is the difference between a property tax scheme as a deduction from taxable income and the scheme now before the House? The difference is that under the scheme in its final form as presented to the House, 3.8 million Canadian families will receive increased tax benefits—

**Mrs. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. For at least three times tonight, and I do not know how many times on other nights when the minister has been speaking, he has referred to this side of the House as the "honorary gentlemen" or "honourable gentlemen". I should like to request that he recognize there are others than gentlemen who, hopefully, are honourable. Will he please stop this sexist language?

**Mr. Crosbie:** Mr. Speaker, I have always treated women exactly the same as men. From now on I will call them "honourable persons" so that there will not be any cries of discrimination. I never realized there was any difference between us. I am a real innocent.

Let me put some figures on the record. There are 9.4 million households in total in Canada; of that number, 3.8 million families pay federal tax and have mortgages and they will get the property tax credit. There are 1.1 million who are non-taxable home owners. There are 4.5 million households who are renters—students or whatever—and who do not come under this legislation. Of the remaining 4.9 million households, 1.1 million are home owners who do not pay taxes to the federal government, for various reasons. There are 3.8 million who do pay taxes to the federal government and who have mortgages or are subject to property tax. The number of households in Canada with mortgages is 2.57 million. There are 116,885 mobile homes.

### *Mortgage Tax Credit*

The value of mortgages in Canada was \$83.7 billion in 1978. When we take the 2.57 million households with a mortgage and divide it into the mortgage debt, it gives an average mortgage of \$32,500.

Of the 3.8 million Canadian home owners who pay federal taxes, who have a mortgage or are subject to the property taxes, 2.3 million will be eligible for both the mortgage interest credit and the property tax credit, and 1.5 million for at least the property tax credit, making the 3.8 million.

Of those families who are eligible, how many are helped by a change from a system of a deduction to a system of tax credits? The answer is, in excess of 3 million home owners benefited more by a change from a tax deduction to a tax credit, and less than 800,000 received less. Of those 800,000 who received less, all are in the higher income bracket. Only 300,000 received less by more than \$100 through this change, all of them in the higher income tax bracket. The scheme, therefore, is directed toward those more in need of assistance by the change to a tax credit.

What is the cost of the scheme to the Canadian government, altogether? In 1979 it is \$575 million. In other words, the tax credits that should be deducted next March or April will amount to \$575 million. These will be deducted in 1980.

**An hon. Member:** Where is the money going to come from?

**Mr. Crosbie:** For the first time, Mr. Speaker, I have heard a member of the New Democratic Party ask where the money is going to come from.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Crosbie:** When it comes to giving the Canadian home owner a break, the NDP is immediately against it. They ask where the money is going to come from. This is the first time in my three years in this House that I have ever heard them ask that question.

The money is going to stay in the pockets of the 3.8 million Canadian taxpayers who would otherwise have paid it. That is where it is going to come from. They are going to spend the \$575 million helping to meet their mortgage interest, helping to meet their property tax payments, helping to meet their insurance premiums, helping to meet their household costs, or whatever they want to use it for.

In the calendar year 1980, as the scheme is further enriched, it will cost \$1.245 billion. That will stay in the pockets of Canadian taxpayers in March and April of 1981, as they prepare their federal tax returns. For the tax year 1981, \$2,015 million will stay in Canadian home owners' pockets to help them meet the costs of operating their homes and meeting their mortgage interest that hon. gentlemen opposite have been so concerned about, ostensibly, in the last few weeks.

In 1982, the fourth year, when the plan is fully mature, it will cost \$2.87 billion. That will stay in the pockets of the 3.8 million Canadian home owners who pay federal taxes and who can deduct that from their federal tax payable. That \$2.87 billion will stay in their pockets to help them meet interest