

*Government Orders*

I would also encourage the minister to carry further her commitment to the well-being of Canada's children, to work hard in her caucus to support those initiatives that will really benefit the hundreds of thousands of Canadian children who continue to exist in poverty.

Take another look at a national child care program. This government has not provided any improved access to child care. Lack of affordable, accessible, non-profit child care is one of the major reasons for keeping poor Canadians, particularly women and single mothers, out of the work force.

Take another look at the cap on the Canada Assistance Plan. Take another look at the decision to cut the co-op housing program. Take another look at better funding for job training programs. These are the kinds of programs that will give Canadian women the help they need to provide adequate support to their children, the opportunities they need to get good jobs and provide for their families.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois):** Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. members:** Agreed.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Departmental envelope.

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## CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION ACT

### MEASURE TO AMEND

**Hon. Elmer M. MacKay (Minister of Public Works)** moved that Bill C-82, an act to amend the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Act and the National Housing Act and to amend another act in consequence thereof, be read the second time and referred to a legislative committee in the Economics envelope.

He said: It is a pleasure for me to speak briefly on these rather important measures that pertain to housing

and to confirm that they will be referred to a legislative committee.

I had understood that this was perhaps more in accordance with what the original arrangement had been agreed upon rather than to try and do it in all stages as we had discussed earlier.

The purpose of this bill is to refine the legislation governing federal housing policies and programs. There is nothing more important to Canadians in general than the state of their housing. The management and access of financing are key to this. It is kind of interesting to see how things have changed in that regard. I was reading the other day a quote from the Danish writer, Henrik Ibsen. He was talking about housing in those days in his celebrated work *A Doll's House*. He said that there can be no freedom or beauty about a home life that depends on borrowing and debt.

I suggest to the House that this is exactly the opposite now and that one has to have access to borrowing and debt in order to enjoy the kind of amenities in housing that Canadians feel they are entitled to have.

The purpose of this bill is to refine the legislation governing federal housing policy and programs. The government is putting forward these amendments with three important principles in mind.

Public loan insurance under the National Housing Act should promote reasonable, equal access to housing finance, and lowest feasible costs and over-all self-sufficiency of the mortgage insurance fund.

In both market and social housing programs, Canada Mortgage and Housing seeks out and takes advantage of opportunities to improve the cost-effectiveness of the programs. The efficiency of their delivery and the ongoing effectiveness is basic and Canada Mortgage and Housing should and must exercise responsibility for its financing activities within a framework and in accordance with standards promoted by the Department of Finance.

As the federal government's housing agency, Canada Mortgage and Housing works with other levels of government and a host of stakeholders to ensure that Canadians have equal access to decent, affordable, and adequate housing.