

*The Address—Mr. Carter*

unrealistic in relation to conditions in Newfoundland. This is why large numbers of our people are forced to live in houses which are substantially below standard. A vast number of my people—and I suspect this applies generally in the Atlantic provinces—are unable to meet the income provisions enabling them to qualify for an N.H.A. loan. Let me remind hon. members that more than 85 per cent of the people of the St. John's district which I have the honour to represent earn less than \$6,000 a year. What comfort do they get from this government's housing policy under which a person must earn a minimum of \$8,000 a year to qualify for an N.H.A. mortgage of \$18,000? Is it any wonder that the people of my riding, and, I suspect, the people of Canada generally, look upon this promise of a just society as the paradox of the century. I say this because the very people who have created the terrible injustices in our society today, such as the high cost of living, the high taxes and a high unemployment rate, are those who are now preaching the just society and who based their whole campaign on that concept only a few short months ago.

Consider the justice of our society under the present government in Newfoundland and, particularly, in St. John's West. We are living in a society which was designed, in my opinion, to handicap a certain class of people, those in the middle and low income groups. These are the people who make up more than 85 per cent of the population of my riding. It is they who are being handicapped and who are suffering economic hardship. Can you imagine, Mr. Speaker, the reactions of our people, living as they do under the gun of hard times, when the government which is responsible talks piously about a just society? It is the paradox of the century. The people who concern me are those in the middle and low income brackets, those who earn less than \$6,000 a year, and in my province, in my city, they are by far in the majority. These are the people who are caught in the economic squeeze inasmuch as they do not earn sufficient money to enable them to qualify for an N.H.A. mortgage with which to buy or build a new home.

On the other hand, because their incomes exceed a certain figure—I believe it is \$3,000 or \$4,000 a year—they are unable to qualify for housing under the municipal-provincial-federal housing plan. These are the very people who cannot afford to pay the high rents which have been brought about in our inflated economy. This is the group which includes

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tradesmen, labourers, fishermen, office workers, farmers and our longshoremen. This is the group which is being caught in this ungodly, unfair and unjust economic squeeze. These are the people who make this country tick; they are the backbone of Canada, yet they are required to bear the burden of all the ills and mistakes of the Liberal government.

● (5:10 p.m.)

It is the old story of the government calling the tune but it is the average Joe, the average citizen, who pays the piper. I ask hon. members of this house is that the just society? I suggest, Mr. Speaker—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard):** Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but the time allotted to him has expired. Unless unanimous consent is given to the hon. member to continue, I will recognize another hon. member.

**Some hon. Members:** Carry on.

**Mr. Carter:** I thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and other hon. members for allowing me to carry on.

I would be a traitor to Newfoundland and afraid to go back to Newfoundland if I ended my speech without making reference to the great train robbery now taking place in Newfoundland. In my opinion, the people who schemed the great train robbery in Great Britain a few years ago were a bunch of kindergarten kids compared with the people who have schemed the great train robbery in Newfoundland where rail passenger service is being replaced by buses.

I could scarcely believe my ears on Friday last when I heard the Minister of Defence Production (Mr. Jamieson), the hon. member for Burin-Burgeo, advance his weak argument supporting the decision of the Canadian National and the Canadian Transportation Commission to abandon rail passenger service in Newfoundland. He confirmed what we in Newfoundland have known for a long time, or at least what we have suspected, that there has been a deal made between the Liberal government in Ottawa and the Liberal provincial government in Newfoundland to cancel this important service in return for the fulfilment of a political promise. I refer to the federal government's decision to pay 90 per cent of the cost of completing the trans-Canada highway in Newfoundland.