

Private Members' Business

between the co-op movement and some of our banks and other financial institutions. Needless to say, we are pleased in Atlantic Canada, because we are the type of communities where people count, where they make a difference. We are not just a number or a statistic, as happens in some of the larger communities. The co-operative movement is typical of an Atlantic Canadian organization.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): We are going to try another point of order here.

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POINT OF ORDER

BILL C-17

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops): Mr. Speaker, I would like to move:

That, notwithstanding any previous proceedings of this House, Bill C-17, an act to amend the Criminal Code and Customs Tariff in consequence thereof, be deemed read a second time and referred to Legislative Committee H, on division.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Members have heard the terms of the motion. Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

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CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Funk (p. 1305).

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member for Moncton.

An hon. member: I think it is a great speech.

Mr. Rideout: Well, it had all kinds of potential until now.

I think the one interesting thing with Co-op Atlantic is that it has just adopted a new mission statement for renewing the co-operative option. I think it bodes well for the co-operative movement in Atlantic Canada and throughout all of the country if other co-ops take the same imaginative approach.

I would like to read from their proposal for renewal. "The ultimate goal of the co-operatives that own Co-op

Atlantic" says part of the proposal for renewal "is to extend co-operative values to all parts of the socio-economic system through the creation of an interdependent network of co-operative enterprises whose operations gain their vitality and business strength through innovative application of co-operative values and principles".

That option for renewal is going to be most beneficial to the co-op movement and most beneficial to people in Atlantic Canada.

If the co-op movement in the west and across our country adopts the same option of renewal, not only will just the co-ops benefit, but all of Canada will benefit from that endeavour.

The nice thing about co-ops, as we all know, is that it is a bottom-up theory. We see all of these top-down, big government measures, big corporations that dictate exactly what is going to take place. We have seen it in the fishing industry where the big corporations come in and dictate what is going to take place and the little guy is left out of the process. The beauty of co-operatives is that it is bottom-up. It is the people who are affected who are involved and have the say. That is why we have seen some of the best co-ops function in our fishing industries, our farming co-operatives, as well as retail co-operatives. We all know the wonderful effects it has had in the area of credit unions.

We on this side of the House see very positive advantages to the motion that was put forward and the direction the motion suggests. Again, I look to Moncton and at the amounts of money that Liberal governments put into co-operative housing for seniors, for single parents, for the poor. These large sums of money show the commitment of Liberal governments of the past.

That commitment has not remained. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that you would agree with me and that you are as upset as I am by the fact that the government has instituted cut after cut after cut in the area of housing and particularly, co-operative housing in the most recent budget. I can see by the look on your face that you are as upset as I am that the government is taking these steps and doing these types of things, when we should be doing the reverse, putting more money into single family co-operative housing; more money into senior citizens co-operative housing.

I am sure that if you had your way, you would think the way we are, and that is to add and help and try to create something positive rather than tear down and remove