

*Mortgage Tax Credit*

**Mr. Campbell (LaSalle):** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. There is a piece of legislation before this House. I think the hon. member is straying. The indulgence of the Chair has been that we can sway from the subject, but the subject is tax credits and interest rates, not the hon. member's stay in New Jersey, senior citizens' residences and so forth. I think the hon. member should stick to the subject and we will listen to him, but this is nonsense.

**Mr. Yurko:** Mr. Speaker, I have not heard such nonsense for some time. An hon. member opposite talked about mortgage interest deductibility in the United States and tax deductibility in the United States. The hon. member has the gall to get up and suggest—

**Mr. Campbell (LaSalle):** We are in Canada, not the United States.

**An hon. Member:** Never mind New Jersey.

**Mr. Yurko:** I just want to give an example of the rate at which energy costs are rising. United States prices are ahead of ours by a couple of years. On the same house in the United States the average energy cost was \$270 a month after a matter of eight to nine years. We are about two years behind. The energy costs in Canada in connection with urban communities, which have been built in a very scattered way, will indeed impact on our society in a major way, and governments will need more programs to alleviate the tax load at the local municipal level. Indeed, we will need more tax measures to alleviate the load on home owners in this nation, and if hon. members opposite do not think this is necessary—every indication they have given is that they are totally opposed to giving the home owner a break—then I would like to meet them in the next election campaign on that very issue and tell every one of them that governments in this nation of every political stripe recognize the value of this type of program.

**An hon. Member:** That is the only platform you have.

**An hon. Member:** One more than you.

**Mr. Yurko:** Housing is an area of considerable importance in this nation. It is an area of concern which is very close to my heart, for the simple reason that I have been involved with housing in a major way not only nationally at national conferences, where we got together repeatedly as provincial ministers with the federal minister, but also provincially where we have upgraded our housing stock in the province of Alberta and in just three years took the number of new units coming on stream per year from 15,000 units to 48,000 units. That was in just three years, so one can accelerate rapidly the construction of housing stock, and nowhere in this nation has this been proved more than in Alberta. That can be done. Any time you want to provide incentives to get housing stock on the market, you can do that; but what we have to do with this bill is address ourselves to what is necessary to deal with the cost of existing housing stock, monthly tax bills and monthly interest bills from here on in. That is what this government is doing,

and I suggest it is moving in the right direction in terms of the entire housing picture in the nation from here on in.

**Mr. Gary F. McCauley (Moncton):** Mr. Speaker, first of all I would like to ask my colleague and a great Canadian from northern Ontario, the hon. member for Timmins-Chapleau (Mr. Chenier), to come over and protect me from the slings and arrows of outrageous insults from across the way as I go through my speech. Would the hon. member come over here?

This has been a momentous week in this House, two days of which I will never forget. For us on this side of the House this has been a day in which we have witnessed the resignation of a great Canadian from the leadership of this party. We were all tremendously moved by the reception he received when he announced that resignation this morning and also by the reception he received this afternoon in the House from both sides, from the Prime Minister (Mr. Clark), from the House leader of the NDP and from the House leader of the Social Credit party. It was a tremendously moving experience for me personally and, I am sure, for all of us here today. It goes to show that, despite the insults we trade and will trade in the next few minutes, we do share a common vision of this country. We are all together in our goals if not in our policies; we do care about this country and we respect each other. So this was probably the most memorable day of my life.

● (1720)

The second most memorable day was Monday night. I do not think that ever in my life have I witnessed such a performance as I witnessed Monday night when the Minister of Finance (Mr. Crosbie) introduced this bill. I felt that I was at a revival meeting with an Evangelist who was trying to sell me a bill of goods. I felt that "St. John Crosbie" was really getting into it in terms of trying to put across a program in which he did not really have his heart but which he wanted to con us into believing he did. He spoke with all the fervour of a convert, which of course in political terms he is. I almost felt that if he had issued an altar call at some point in his speech, all of us on this side of the House would have gone down on our knees in front of him and repented for our sins.

**An hon. Member:** That would take a long while.

**Mr. McCauley:** No, it would take only 30 seconds. One of the greatest spectacles I have ever witnessed—and I want to congratulate the Minister of Finance for the tremendous roles that he plays in this House—was on Monday night when he was the Evangelist. He also plays a role in the question period, what I would call the glowering inferno, acting out righteous indignation. He is a tremendous performer and he plays many roles, that of the clown, that of the buffoon and so on. I have a great deal of admiration for his ability to play all these roles.

**An hon. Member:** Except for his ability as Minister of Finance.