

when I was in the Liberal constituencies of Guelph and Kitchener, that the government's policies are taking us on a road to economic disaster, and that increasing numbers of small businesses, family farmers and home owners are being forced to suffer as a result of government policy. When members of the Liberal caucus come forward with measures such as the one before us today and say that it is satisfactory to deal with the housing crisis, then they are guilty of complicity as Canadians have their homes taken away from them. When Liberal members of caucus vote to support the Minister of Finance on his budget, they are complicitous. As farming Canadians find that a family farm can be taken away from them, Liberal members are complicitous. As ordinary Canadians have their jobs taken away from them by the policies of the Minister of Finance, Liberal members are complicitous. As more small-business men in record numbers find themselves being forced out of business, Liberal members are complicitous.

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The crisis which is facing Canadians today is a crisis which confronts the members of the Liberal caucus directly because the choice is theirs. They can use their majority to prop up and sustain policies that are wreaking havoc in their own constituencies, or they can exercise courage and independence and they can do the job they were sent down here to do, that is, to speak out on behalf of their constituents, to call upon the Minister of Finance to change that disastrous budget and to recognize the serious crisis in Canada today.

I do not think anyone who has had the opportunity of looking at the state of Canada's economy today can be anything but concerned. Certainly members on this side of the House are deeply concerned. We are today in the most serious economic crisis since the Great Depression. Every sign that we get from the government is that it has no answer. The government has no plans. What the Minister of Finance has done in his budget is to plan for higher unemployment, to plan for continuing high interest rates and to plan for continuing high inflation. He has not shown any leadership in coming to grips with the serious problems facing Canadians. This is why there is such an economic malaise in our country today. This is why business is increasingly saying to each of us that if they are expected to make investment in the future, they have to have some long-term assurance as to what the government's plans will be. Business has to have some assurance that if it invests in this country, the economy will be soundly managed and that business will get a fair return on its investment. Business does not have that assurance today. Growing numbers of Canadian businessmen are voting with their dollar and saying they have a lack of confidence in this government's management of the economy.

This is a concern to me because I am worried about the future of young Canadians in Canada. What will the prospects be for them with unemployment running this year over one million? What will be the prospects for young families who want to have a home of their own? The prospect is very bleak indeed at the present time. One of the reasons that since prior

### *Housing*

to confederation millions of people left their homes in other countries to come to Canada is that they felt there was an opportunity in this country to own their own home and to build a future for themselves and their families. It was for that reason that I proposed at this time last year that the government's constitutional resolution be amended to recognize the rights of Canadians to own property. Initially, the government indicated it was prepared to support that. But under pressure from the NDP, the government withdrew that support and broke the promise it had made.

What we are finding today is that the government is going a step further. Not only is it not prepared to guarantee the right of Canadians to own property, but because of the government's policies, increasing numbers of Canadians, ordinary working families, are having their hopes and their dreams dashed. They are having their homes and their dreams taken away from them. What more cruel policy could there be on the part of any government to inflict that sort of consequence upon every Canadian?

Not every Canadian is in jeopardy today of losing his home. Some Canadians will be able to manage even in spite of the government's management of the economy and the new policies being brought down in the budget. But an ominous note was sounded in some of the material which was tabled with the budget. The minister responsible for housing again did not address this particular issue when he made his speech a couple of days ago in support of this bill. When the Minister of Finance made his budget speech, he decided that he would take a look at tax expenditures. He decided to take a look at what potential revenues could be gained for the government if the government closed what he keeps referring to as loopholes, which ordinary Canadians consider essential to their survival. One of those loopholes which he identified was that by charging an imputed rent to ordinary Canadians who live in their own homes and own their own homes, the government will be able to achieve a saving of a further \$4.5 billion for its tax revenue. That was based on the fiscal year 1979. According to the Minister of Finance, if the government chose to charge that imputed rent, that \$4.5 billion would have resulted in a tax increase of an average of \$458 per tax filer in Canada.

Liberal members opposite say that the minister talked about it, he had it in his discussion paper. He did computations to see how much revenue he could gain if he chose to charge that imputed rent and tax it, but he decided not to do it this year. On the strength of this government's track record, Canadian home owners and families have good cause for concern that the trial balloon that was floated by the Minister of Finance in November, 1981, may very well turn out to be the reality in the coming budget.

What we found in this budget was a massive tax grab which hits the ordinary Canadian and taxes benefits that he receives at his place of work. For example, dental plans will be taxed under the budget of the Minister of Finance. How much further is there to go if he wants more revenue than for him to seek that further \$458 per tax filer in Canada and to charge that imputed rent that he was talking about in the budget