

Use of Solar Energy

the people. These nations have solar energy to spare, but they lack the technology to use this energy to pump the water they need. And the conference considered very seriously this problem and this possibility to use these energies which are made available to us by God.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to blame anyone in Canada, absolutely not. I do not intend to blame anybody but we have a housing policy which puts under a yoke those who need to go to the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Of course, the corporation is responsible for the management of the funds which are made available to it and gives yearly accounts to the Parliament of Canada. The corporation lends at rates which force borrowers to refund three or four times the amount of the loan.

To have the right to own a house under the present policy, the borrowers have to sign a contract under which they agree to refund three or four times the value of the house. It is not surprising, Mr. Speaker, that there are now many more tenants than owners in our country because ownership is becoming increasingly impossible for a working couple with an average income under the onerous conditions for the refund of the loans or of the loan they can obtain to be able to own a house.

So, Mr. Speaker, under the present circumstances, it is obvious that the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation feels obliged to impose obligations which are well beyond the repayment capacity of borrowers. And from year to year we see ever fewer couples prevailing themselves of this legislation and of the advantages which have been enumerated because they do not foresee the possibility one day of really becoming owners of the house they will have to maintain, in addition of municipal and school taxes and so on.

And this is why I say that in a normal society when one witnesses a phenomenon such as this when there are more tenants than owners, it becomes a source of concern. When a man owns a property it is like his little homeland. He is prepared to make all the necessary sacrifices to ensure the protection of his rights. It is his little homeland and he is prepared to accept any sacrifice to make sure it is truly his. When the majority of people in a country are not made owners but simply tenants, unfortunately—and history has shown this, the past bears this out—people are not interested in defending their homeland against attacks that may come from all sides. They let themselves be carried by ideologies and are prepared to accept anything, because they do not believe they could be worse off.

Well, Mr. Speaker, I find that the hon. member's motion is timely because we also have in Canada that opportunity of working to discover more fully the resources of the sun—solar energy. I understand that in recent years the government of Canada—and I say this with pride—has made efforts to carry out research to discover the possible uses of solar energy so as to reduce the cost of maintaining a house, and more particu-

larly when it comes to heating water and keeping our houses warm, something which our climate has made necessary in this country.

Mr. Speaker, even if unlike the countries of Africa we do not have the advantage of enjoying a scorching sun all year round it is still possible to allocate more money to trying to find the necessary means for storing solar energy. It could be used advantageously by future home owners to reduce their costs, with the resulting advantage of being eager to have access to ownership and saying with pride, I own part of my homeland.

Mr. Speaker, that is the pride we have to transmit to our children if we want them to be really responsible citizens. Or, in short if we want them to be able to fight to protect their rights and the freedom that will enable them to enjoy the rights which come with the ownership of a piece of property. Mr. Speaker, that is why I think that the motion of the hon. member for Davenport is so timely. I know the House gives its unanimous consent to directing our research work in a serious way towards the use of solar energy. Mr. Speaker, I would not like us to find ourselves in the kind of mess we have been in for 50 years.

The energy of our rivers and of all those natural resources fell under the control of corporations which developed those resources to make profits and not to provide services. I consider that it is the responsibility of parliament to vote the necessary funds to carry out further research which could be valuable for Canadians instead of leaving them in the hands of those who can eventually centralize and cash in on those energies to make more profits and take unfair advantage of the people. Let us be careful.

Past experience should compel us to take steps and make parliament truly responsible, which would enable our researchers to work efficiently and submit practical proposals. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) would thus be able to make solar energy available to all Canadians at prices in line with the ability to pay of each individual who wishes to gain ownership. This is why I seriously support the motion of the hon. member for Davenport, while suggesting that if one day the objective aimed at in the motion is attained, it should be beneficial to all Canadians.

I am concluding my comments so that this motion may be passed, because I do not want it to be said that I killed it as it has unfortunately happened too often in the past. I am in favour of life, Mr. Speaker, I am not a murderer. I am anxious that steps be taken so that all the assets given us by our Maker are made available to all mankind.

● (1742)

[*English*]

Mr. Ross Milne (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, as a person who has engineering training and who had some re-