

interest rates from $7\frac{3}{4}$ per cent to about 11 per cent, will be that a person who would have paid \$92.47 in 1967 for a three or four bedroom house, which he could have managed, will this year be paying \$167.30 a month. I suggest there are very few people who can afford to pay that kind of money. The result is that we have an increasing percentage of our people living in high rise apartments, which is something they do not want, and paying substantially more money than they can afford.

While we have increased the percentage of homes being built under the public housing formulae, the percentage is still far too low and the numbers far from meeting the needs of the people. We are proceeding, albeit very slowly, with proposals for urban renewal but, despite all the protestations of the minister, too often we are continuing with programs which call for the bulldozing of entire blocks of city homes and their replacement with high rise rental units.

We believe we ought to move toward a system where urban renewal will require participation by local neighbourhood associations in the planning of projects. Members of the NDP caucus were in Hamilton last week end. We saw some exciting plans put forward by a local community with respect to the rehabilitation of their area, rehabilitation without knocking everything down and without wiping out the local community stores which serve the neighbourhood so well. What they are calling for is rehabilitation rather than destruction. They are calling for the kind of participatory democracy about which the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) speaks so eloquently when he talks theory, but which he ignores completely in practice.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE
DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. MacInnis)—Health and Welfare—Policy on birth control and family plan-

Suggested Lack of Urban Policy
ning; the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie)—Post Office—Montreal—Number of trucks purchased by department; the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Harding)—Public Buildings—Access for handicapped persons—Meeting of approved standards.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—LACK OF URBAN
POLICY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Broadbent:

That this House condemns the government for its failure to establish an urban policy for Canada.

Mr. P. M. Mahoney (Calgary South): Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether the fact that members of this House other than the supporters of the party proposing today's supply motion were made aware of its subject matter in the middle of last week was a mistake or deliberate, but whichever it was I would like to express my appreciation of it. Many of the games we play on Parliament Hill are of very little relevance or interest to Canada and Canadians in the year of our Lord 1970. Surely, what the public have every right to expect of us is informed debate and reasoned decisions. This is not easy to achieve in this complex, busy world at the best of times. It is almost impossible, except in the rare case where the subject matter of debate happens to fall within the area of an individual member's expertise, to achieve within the notice period customary for opposition days.

The 24-hour notice period provided in Standing Order 58(4) for opposition motions on allotted days is, I think, necessary to preserve a proper opportunity to deal with sudden important developments. I would not suggest that it be increased. However, its use as a tactical device to create advantages in debate is no more justified than would be similarly motivated revisions of the weekly order of business as announced in advance every Thursday by the government house leader. We should note that not only government members but equally supporters of the other opposition parties will be better able to do their jobs if the practice established in this case is continued, and the subject matter of opposition motions is indicated well in advance with, of course, full right reserved to change the subject matter in an emergency.