

*National Housing Act*

1. The specific proposal outlined by Mr. Danson December 11, contrary to his assertion, will primarily benefit rather affluent middle income families. Houses built for the maximum price which the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation currently permits for its Assisted Home Ownership Program will not be available to households earning less than \$19,000 in Vancouver and Toronto . . .

I might add, Madam Speaker, that for Hamilton it is \$18,000, as it is for Ottawa.

● (2030)

It goes on to say that permits will not be available to those earning \$16,000 in Halifax, \$15,000 in Saint John and \$14,000 in Montreal, unless those people spend more than 25 per cent of their income on housing. Even condominium units will not be available to those households earning less than \$14,000 in Vancouver, \$16,000 in Toronto, \$13,000 in Ottawa and \$10,000 in Montreal.

What kind of monstrosity is Bill C-46, Madam Speaker? As I said before, the minister has been given the chance to introduce a worthwhile program. Instead, he is trying to introduce a dubious ad hoc approach and pass it off as a major solution to the housing crisis in Canada. The people will not buy it. They expected something more imaginative from the minister.

All the same we cannot vote against the bill because it is a step in the right direction, although it is a miserably short step. The minister knows how serious this problem is. He has ability, has been called brilliant, and is concerned. I hope he will discuss it at the earliest opportunity with the Minister of Finance—I do not know how long he will be around here—and tell him that a housing program cannot be successful unless that minister co-operates in dealing with inflation. If the Minister of Finance fails in that, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs will not succeed, and the government will answer to the people sooner or later. I hope it is sooner rather than later.

**Mr. Wally Firth (Northwest Territories):** Madam Speaker, I want to make a few remarks about housing in the Northwest Territories. Better still, I want to talk about housing in the Northwest Territories and tell it "like it is".

Let me make clear that the housing situation in the Northwest Territories is not just bad; it is terrible. If I were Prime Minister of this country and knew of the housing situation in the Northwest Territories, I would say, "Mr. Minister, the housing situation in the Northwest Territories is so bad that that area is a disaster area. Do something about it!"

It seems to me that Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Territorial Housing Corporation of the Northwest Territories lack any policy for solving the housing difficulties of my part of the country, and therein lies the problem. On the other hand, one can say that there is a policy of sorts at work in our northern parts, a policy of segregation, a policy of engineered, budgeted and carried out segregation. One section of the community lives in good homes. Those people enjoy thermostatically controlled heat, running hot and cold water, and they can take a shower and do their laundry when they want. On the other hand the people in the native community do not enjoy these necessities of life.

Water in a home is important, not only for the running of the home but for the maintenance of good health. Many

[Mr. Alexander.]

of us in the south take water in our homes for granted. In the north the authorities seem to have embarked on a policy of encouraging planned ghettos. Some hon. members have been up north and lived in these conditions for a few days. They know that government employees live in one section of town and northern, native people in another.

I will not mention too many figures. Let me mention some, however, concerning Frobisher Bay. I suggest that the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Danson) should hop in an aircraft and visit that community for a few hours, and he would know what I am talking about.

In Frobisher Bay 70 per cent of the population is native. The Innu live in 35 per cent of the housing, and it is housing of poor standard. As against that, 30 per cent of the population is made up of government employees, federal and territorial. They live in 65 per cent of the housing, and it is the best housing available in Frobisher Bay. You will see something like this in other communities of the Northwest Territories. That is what I mean when I say that the authorities are pursuing a policy of planned, engineered and budgeted segregation which is being carried out in that region. This is a blot on the record of the government.

Conditions in many native homes are so bad that they are terrible. In two election campaigns I went from door to door, and some of the conditions I saw you would not believe. I came to a home in Cambridge Bay and spoke to a woman who was mother of five children. Her husband was at work, and she said, "Look at my children; they have skin sores on their faces." I do not like seeing conditions like that; neither do other hon. members. We do not want families to live under such conditions.

In some of these houses you must melt snow and ice on an electric burner if you want water to wash your floors or bathe your children. Melting snow and ice on a four-burner electric appliance if you want water is not the way to maintain good health. As against this we have government employees in our area who can have a shower in the morning and another at night without any difficulty. These are the conditions of which I am speaking.

Conditions under which native peoples live are degrading. For example, in some cases more than one family live in a two-bedroom house. The social costs of these conditions are extremely high. The housing shortage and poor housing conditions contribute to bad health. Because children live in overcrowded conditions they cannot sleep, and drop out of school.

Overcrowding leads to mental illness, to family quarrels, and to husbands preferring to go to the local pub after work instead of to an overcrowded home. That is why I say conditions in many parts of the Northwest Territories are disastrous, and the government should look into them.

What are we to do? First, you have to look at these problems in northern terms and consider solutions appropriate to northern conditions. The climate of the Northwest Territories is severe. It gets very cold up there. One would think that after 100 years of government good housing policies would be evident in the territories, but they are not. We do not have them. That is why I say that it is important to consider the housing problem of the