

Adjournment Debate

who live in highrise apartments. Another 20 per cent is made up of people who live in housing which they rent. There are many people who have paid off their homes and there is a large number of young people who are buying homes at the extravagant interest rates which are being charged by the banks, at the instigation of the Liberal government up until May 22 and of the Tory government after May 22.

As a representative of that riding, I think that the mortgage interest deduction was one of the issues in the campaign. It was made an issue by my Conservative opponent. All I can say to him is: what kind of a policy is it where people on the same street, where people who are neighbours living cheek by jowl, some renters, some home owners, some have paid off their mortgages, some have not, get together at church meetings and talk about what the social policy of the government is, and we have this policy of organized selfishness which is put forward as a social policy by the Conservative party? We have said it before that it was in the 19th century that the Tories said in order to be able to vote one had to own property. That was the message of democracy that came forward from the Tory party in those days. Just as that was a travesty of the democratic principle, we have a travesty of economic democracy in this principle which is being put forward today as a basis for a tax credit.

Mr. McKinnon: You are going back quite a way.

Mr. Rae: They are telling us that in order to get a tax credit you have to own a home and be owing a mortgage. That is the qualification. So we have that old division created in our society between those people who own property and those people who do not own property. You cannot justify it as a social policy.

May I call it ten o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Scott, Victoria-Haliburton): Order, please. I have the honour to inform the House that a message has been received from the Senate informing the House that the Senate has passed Bill S-3, an Act to amend the Coastal Fisheries Protection Act, to which the concurrence of this House is desired.

 PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT
MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

[Mr. Rae.]

[Translation]

PUBLIC WORKS—STATUS OF GUY FAVREAU COMPLEX

Hon. André Ouellet (Papineau): Mr. Speaker, I should like to remind the House that on March 29, 1972, the then minister of public works, the Hon. Jean-Hugues Dubé, announced in Montreal, in the presence of the mayor of that city and the then minister of regional economic expansion, the Hon. Jean Marchand, the construction of a vast complex of office buildings for the civil servants of the Canadian government in Montreal. The complex was made up of three towers, which were to be built at an estimated cost of \$100 million within the quadrilateral bounded by Dorchester, Lagau-chetière, Jeanne-Mance and St-Urbain. The notice of expropriation was sent at that time, that is in March of 1972, to the 16 owners concerned in this project.

The decision of the Canadian government to build a huge federal building in that part of east Montreal was not reached without careful deliberation, and especially without consultation with the provincial and municipal authorities of the day. The decision to build in that particular spot was intended to move the heart of the downtown area slightly to the east of Montreal, and to integrate a federal presence in that most important area of social, cultural and economic buildings now located between Place des Arts and Place d'Armes in Montreal.

● (2200)

Of course, a lot has happened since 1972, especially when the construction plans of this building were finished around the end of 1973 and when construction of the complex should normally have started. This was just before the Olympic Games, Place Desjardins was not completed yet, there was a lot of construction activity in Montreal, and there were even fears that the Olympic facilities would not be completed in time for the games in 1976.

The Canadian government, therefore, had to postpone its project for building this government complex. It was decided to defer it until after the Olympics. After the games, after more consultation with those responsible, especially the municipal authorities, and following many representations made by various citizen groups, this government complex, which was supposed to have three towers and to be reserved for public servants, became the new project for the Guy Favreau complex which was designed for multiple uses. It was decided to replace the original project, which called for an office complex for public servants, by a project including one tower for offices and two other housing towers to allow for the reintegration in downtown Montreal of an active population willing not only to work, but also to reside in the centre of the city.

I therefore find it strange, now that this project has been announced and decided, that the plans are completed and that the foundations have nearly all been poured, that the Progressive Conservative government, right after its election, would