

Housing

Along with the regional tensions they have allowed to develop over the last decade and a half, the country is increasingly at risk because of our inability to manage one of the most blessed nations and peoples God ever gave this earth. We have thrown away one magnificent opportunity after another to become energy self-sufficient by 1990. All of this, Mr. Speaker, relates to the attitude and type of legislation we are debating in Bill C-89, which again gives more and more power to some faceless bureaucrat to say, "Yes, you may have \$7,500 to build a rental unit here". Let them build one there, instead of just putting out something in law and policy which says to the entrepreneurs and the business sector of the country: "Go, make a buck". Let them provide housing for people within their means.

One day it is MURBs, and in the next budget, no MURBs. We have removed all the elements of fiscal policy which at one time encouraged a wide decision-making base in Canada, and now this November 12 budget attacks property and privacy. Was it any accident, Mr. Speaker, that the constitutional debate saw the right to property removed from the new Constitution we are about to receive. Why? Just look at what has happened since February, 1980. The National Energy Program has backed in with confiscation of rights and property. Not only that, we had the constitutional package, and now we have the November 12 budget along with the legislation in Bill C-89. All of this shows a pattern of interference with and suffocation of a free marketplace. When people lose that freedom of the marketplace, Mr. Speaker, freedom itself is at risk.

As I come to the end of my time, Mr. Speaker, let me return to this statement, "The private sector can be defined as the part of the economy that the government controls: the public sector is the part that nobody controls." At one time some years ago when CMHC was a corporation of which we were all proud and which was providing a wonderful mortgage service in the marketplace in a highly professional and skilled manner, it also went into the business of insuring mortgage risks. Over the years, Mr. Speaker, I think that program built up something like a \$600 million reserve fund. Then along came this Liberal government with the AHOP program which, we all remember, was just a total disaster. It was the bureaucrat at his worst. That program, along with others, just totally wiped out the insurance fund which CMHC had built up over many years. At a recent committee meeting on May 19, 1981, I asked the deputy minister responsible for CMHC about the condition of that fund. He reported that it had projected future losses of \$400 million due to the AHOP program. Well, in addition to wiping out that fund, CMHC had to go to the government to borrow another \$231 million to cover their cash obligations under that insurance fund. That is the kind of thing which is happening to all of the assets under the control of our Crown corporations and this Liberal government. To me that is inexcusable and a scandal of some magnitude.

Let us look, Mr. Speaker, at one other recent program which this department is responsible for, the UFFI program. It is utterly amazing how that came about because scientists in

the employ of this government at the NRC warned against the use of urea formaldehyde foam insulation. Here is what happens as a result of this incestuous ability to lobby the policy-making centres through our Crown corporations. I repeat: Incestuous, disgustingly incestuous. A company called Rapco Foam Incorporated was purchased. It was not successful at the urethane formaldehyde foam business. Therefore, it was purchased in 1976 by Innocan Investments, which was 37 per cent owned by Canada Development Corporation. As soon as it had control over this foam process, it claimed that the shrinkage problem had been solved and that the problem was over. In September of 1977, UFFI was approved by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation for use in its CHIP program. This was over the objections of the National Research Council, and of Dr. Richard Viau, acting head of the chemical and fire safety program of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, who, in an interview, warned:

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People should think quite carefully before installing this product in their homes . . . Formaldehyde is a very irritating chemical and exposure can lead to headaches, allergies and a whole gamut of other problems.

Canada Mortgage and Housing, before it launched its CHIP program, was fully aware of the objections of the scientific community, inhouse, in government, and were fully aware of the recommendations of Dr. Viau in Consumer and Corporate Affairs. Yet the power of lobby through Crown corporations to the policy sector of CMHC overruled any common sense, and away went urea formaldehyde foam insulation to the benefit of Innocan and its shareholders, because its sales went up about 12 times a month.

That is the type of thing that is going on, and that is the type of thing that is in this warning. No one controls the public sector and, in Canada, it is totally out of control. That is why I stand here tonight with a rather poorly prepared presentation which, nevertheless, contains some original thought—

An hon. Member: Occasionally.

Mr. Huntington: —and put up with some smart remarks from a minister who obviously does not know what he is doing.

Mr. Cosgrove: What did you do with UFFI when you were in government?

Mr. Huntington: I have no apologies to make, Mr. Minister, for what I did in the short period I was in government, because I served the constituency I was appointed to serve very well. I have no apologies for what I did. Had some of the programs and plans which were in place been given just a chance to live, you guys would be over here for the next 30 years.

We are dealing with the heart of the young people and the emerging family units in Canada when we deal with legislation like this. They do not have a chance. This kind of legislation, with the policies that we have had for the last two years of this government, will deliver us into an egalitarian state, and will remove the most precious commodity we inherited, that is our freedom, as it removes freedom from the marketplace and