

National Housing Act

maker if the provincial and federal governments combined in taking action.

There is another type of housing that I hesitate to mention. When you talk about it, people treat it as a dirty word. I am referring to mobile homes. I am aware that a great many municipalities are strict and do not allow them, but I am quite sure that if a park were properly laid out and the right types of homes were erected, such homes could provide much needed housing for those who cannot afford permanent, brand new homes. Also, such units would provide young people and those who are retired with a roof over their heads and they could call the home their own. They can be purchased with little or no down payment. I am aware that in most cases they may be purchased this way provided that land for their erection is available. At present, interest rates are not satisfactory; lenders are charging as much as 12 per cent and even 14 per cent. Surely the government could step in, provide funds at much lower interest rates and make available the amenities and safeguards which are available to other homes.

What I am about to say I have said before and will keep on saying. I am reminded of the story of a young woman who was in a Salvation Army band. She was playing a drum and someone asked her what she did, how she did it, how she enjoyed it, and so on. She looked at the questioner and said, "Well, all I do is beat this damned drum". That is what I intend to do. I shall say again and again what I am about to say. The 11 per cent sales tax on building materials should be removed immediately. I am certain that this move would provide a much needed shot in the arm for the building of private homes especially as compared to large commercial buildings. The owners of commercial buildings just add the extra cost to rents and so pass it on. We have asked time and again on our side of the House for this tax to be removed. Builders have been requesting it. Still the government makes no move. I wonder if possibly the government might come forward with a compromise and perhaps reduce the tax or cut it in half.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Perhaps this is a good time to recognize that it is four o'clock. We will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed in today's order paper, namely, notices of motions, public bills and private bills.

Mr. Bell: Mr. Speaker, I understand there is some agreement that we consider item No. 9 under private members' notices of motions, in the name of the hon. member for Hamilton-Wentworth (Mr. O'Sullivan).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is this the understanding reached by the House?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

[Mr. Darling.]

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS**AIRPORTS****MOUNT HOPE, ONT.—REQUEST FOR INQUIRY INTO PROPOSED AIRPORT EXPANSION**

Mr. Sean O'Sullivan (Hamilton-Wentworth) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should conduct a full and complete public inquiry into the proposed expansion of Mount Hope airport, and that immediate attention be given to possible alternate sites for such proposed expansion.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for this opportunity to place before the House a motion which I hope hon. members will consider in the same spirit as it is offered. This being the eve of St. Patrick's Day, I also hope that it will have some kind of Irish luck with the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand).

The acceptance of this motion would result in two concurrent and related actions on the part of the government—the holding of public hearings into the expansion plans for Mount Hope airport and the consideration of possible alternate sites for such expansion. The latter is perhaps of great interest only to hon. members from the area involved. However, I believe that the question of public hearings on a matter of such a serious nature will be of genuine concern to all members of this House.

• (1600)

I favour an expanded airport facility to serve Hamilton and the surrounding region as do, I believe, the majority of the residents of the area. The southern part of Ontario, particularly the city of Hamilton, continues to grow in terms of population and in its importance as a centre for industry and business. Hamilton is one of two cities of its size in North America without adequate airport facilities needed to keep this momentum going and to continue to offer the opportunities and economic benefits now available to its citizens. However, we all recognize that the location of airport facilities involves consideration of many factors, including ones which have a direct effect upon the quality of life in a region and which therefore must take priority over factors based upon commercial expediency.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, the existing plans for airport expansion at Mount Hope as proposed by the Minister of Transport deserve, and indeed demand, the closest scrutiny. One of my chief concerns throughout the long history of this airport question has been the tendency on the part of some, including the Department of Transport, to view the proposals as strictly a matter of concern to the city of Hamilton or, even worse, just to the Hamilton city council. I would like to think that this attitude is an incorrect impression on my part and that references to the facility as the Hamilton civic airport stem solely from the fact that the city pays considerable sums of money as its part in maintaining the existing airport facilities.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, as one who was born in Hamilton, who has already argued that it needs improved airport facilities and who has the honour of representing a constituency with approximately half its population within those city limits, I have no intention of downgrad-