

Urban Affairs

of the New Democratic Party and of the Social Credit Party. The group sitting opposite is the official opposition, thirsting and salivating for power. They have put forward a motion that is a subterfuge, a silly parliamentary strategy designed for no other purpose than to embarrass me and the other parties in this House.

An hon. Member: That is impossible!

Mr. Basford: It seems to me that members of the New Democratic Party and of the Social Credit Party are interested in motions that will show the money for housing legislation that is being passed to provide—

An hon. Member: You missed a bit!

Mr. Basford:—housing in this country. This motion, Mr. Speaker, will not add one red cent to housing in 1974. This year we are budgeting \$1¼ billion for housing. This motion, even if it passed, would not add one red cent to that program.

This motion, Mr. Speaker, raises no money for housing in 1974; this Conservative motion, Mr. Speaker, proposes not to build one house in 1974; this motion, Mr. Speaker, that we are asked to vote for and which would result in bringing down the government, does not even propose to build one house. Surely, the members of this House in all parties are entitled, rather than that kind of subterfuge, to a motion setting forth the policy of this group which claims it is entitled to be the government of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, they have just been bragging that they had a great meeting ten days ago in which their policies were determined. Yet, two weeks or ten days after that meeting they are not able to set down in this House by way of a motion of no-confidence, a constructive alternative housing program for Canada.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Basford: Mr. Speaker, I see I am getting to hon. members opposite who are becoming extremely noisy. They wave a document called "Prepared for the Challenge" which the spokesman for the party called his policy statement. Yesterday another hon. member was quick to point out that it was not a policy statement but only discussion papers, some parts of which were stolen from the policy of the government.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Basford: Yesterday, this group that is unable to offer a constructive alternative housing program by way of a motion, through the hon. member for Mississauga (Mr. Blenkarn), criticized and ridiculed the various programs for housing that I am going to talk about in a moment. Only ten months ago he voted for those programs. I remind him that he voted, as did the Conservative Party, for amendments to the National Housing Act.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Basford: Yet last night they got up and ridiculed the repair and rehabilitation and the assisted home ownership programs as well as other programs that are now beginning to come into effect. The vote of the hon. member for

Mississauga is obviously not worth a tinker's damn. Obviously, he means nothing when he rises solemnly in his place and votes, like the rest of them over there, for a piece of legislation and criticizes it afterwards.

The hon. member for Burnaby-Richmond-Delta (Mr. Reynolds) said last night that the trouble with housing is too much government interference. Then, he said that we should have regional land banks in the country. We already have federal-provincial land banks, land assembly programs and now federal-municipal land banking programs. They want to complicate that with a third tier of regional land banks but I am not sure for what purpose. Let us first make sure that the existing provisions apply.

In addition, the hon. member for Calgary North is opposed to my proposal for a demonstration fund. He says it is a research program, but it is not. But even the projects I have mentioned are mentioned in their own programs. In the document "Prepared for the Challenge"—Housing and Urban Affairs" appears the following:

... an examination of improved methods of handling refuse collection and disposal in our large metropolitan areas.

Obviously, their program is to study and research those things but not to have any money to implement them. In another section their program refers to developing new ways of providing "pollution free rapid transit systems". More study and research on rapid transit systems without any money to implement the solutions! That is a great party but it is certainly not ready to take office tonight—or any other time.

We have had two days debate on housing and that is a good thing because it smoked out the Tories as not standing for anything or, when they do, standing for totally conflicting ideas.

Yesterday I outlined in detail the government's housing program at page 824 of *Hansard*. This government has introduced far reaching legislation, has given effect to more new housing assistance programs, and in recent years has built more housing than any other Canadian government.

I would remind hon. members of the recent amendments to the National Housing Act which provided for more assistance than ever before to low and moderate income people who enjoy the kind of housing they need, either as tenants or owners or supporters of non-profit or co-operative organizations. These programs are now coming into effect and every day more and more Canadians are applying them to their needs. For example, in the assisted home ownership program, even without change, I would expect some 18,000 families to benefit this year.

In terms of the capital available to minimum cost, non-profit community groups and co-operatives which are prepared to acquire or build low rental housing for the use of their neighbours, including the elderly and those on fixed incomes, this government is running, through those amendments and its budget, the most generous, forward looking and progressive support program for the elderly that this country has ever seen. This act provides that the non-profit housing groups which are building senior citizens' housing, have more complete legislative, financial and administrative support. We are continuing to provide public housing to those people who find it the best solu-