

Canadians are not paying much attention to that kind of thing because this is the same organization which is urging people to turn over their life insurance policies to a particular political party. Their next move may be the necromancy of advising that life insurance policies be turned over to the Government of Canada.

Ms. Catherine Callbeck (Malpeque): Mr. Speaker, this budget allows Canadians to take \$20,000 out of their RRSP and buy a home. The hon. member mentioned that. That is great for Canadians who are fortunate enough to have an RRSP, and I believe there are approximately 10 per cent of Canadians in that category.

This same budget goes on and eliminates the co-op housing program. It puts a cap of 3 per cent on spending in social housing.

I want to ask the hon. member a question. Does he not feel that in the area of housing this budget helps the fortunate and hurts the less fortunate?

• (1300)

Mr. Edwards: Mr. Speaker, on the contrary. I believe the general thrust of this budget is to generate confidence in the Canadian economy and to send a message to the less fortunate that this government does care for them.

I may have neglected to say this budget has a great deal for Canadians with disabilities contained in its provisions. I am sure my friend from Malpeque will welcome that.

She asked questions about the RRSP plan which I welcome. I hope it will have the desired effect and I believe it will. She tied that in with the abolition of the co-op housing program. That is a move I think ought to be re-examined. I did not welcome that move with enthusiasm because I had a hand in seeing the co-op program work very creatively to offer housing to people who prefer that style of life. Living in co-op housing would not be to my taste, but I recognize it is to the taste of quite a number of Canadians. There are provisions within the former co-op housing program for the disabled and for lower income Canadians that are truly

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advantageous. I can cite the example of the Summit Village Co-op Project at 149th Street and Stony Plain Road in my riding which the former minister of housing, my distinguished friend from Don Valley East, helped me develop some two years ago. That was a situation where co-op housing funds were channelled to provide not only accommodation for the disabled and elderly, but for a broad cross-section of Edmontonians who pronounced themselves very happy with their current habitat. I am pleased to add there is a waiting list of some 86 couples who would like to get into that project.

I will join with my friend from Malpeque in asking for a review of that particular move in this budget. I do not embrace every one of its provisions and that is one of them.

Mr. John Brewin (Victoria): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Edmonton Southwest is one of the particularly distinguished and respected members of this House. I have listened with interest to his comments particularly on the budget's effect on the family.

The issue he just addressed surely is one which undermines the family in this country. The co-op housing program was particularly successful in integrating those of lower income with those of somewhat higher incomes in a housing development rather than isolating low income people off in a corner. I think the member will agree that cutting off that program was particularly damaging to Canadian families.

The hon. member must be troubled at the very least by the breach of commitment by the government on the issue of a national child care program. He campaigned along with other Conservatives in the last election on the government's commitment for a national child care program. The very fact that the government has broken its solemn commitment made to the Canadian people must trouble the hon. member.

I would like to comment on the decision by legislation of the government not to honour pay equity beyond the latter part of 1990. It will simply cut off the legal rights that may be established to pay equity and will again damage lower income women in particular who are trying to support families, along with the end of the