

Housing

tried to make us believe that there had been no consultation with the provinces. The facts, Mr. Speaker, are that before my hon. colleague, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) asked the Canadian government to establish this program, a meeting was held where all his provincial counterparts asked for the establishment of such a program.

The provincial ministers themselves wanted the implementation of a national energy conservation program and specially a home insulation program. Now what has the federal government done about it? The government said: Here is a program ready to be implemented. We would give up to \$350 to any Canadian who would want to insulate his house according to a seven-year plan. The provinces, on the other hand, must do something tangible as well to show that they are serious in this collective effort toward energy conservation. The provinces were asked to take concrete steps, or what has been called conditions to allow the residents of the provinces to be eligible for this program.

The conditions that the provinces were asked to implement are not impossible to realize, they are simple and natural conditions; first, to implement reduced speeds on highways; second, to install in new constructions what is called "block meters" which replace central systems in apartment buildings and gives each apartment its own individual system, as a means to save energy and reduce excessive heating cost; third, the provinces were asked to accept new building standards which would enable people to build not for the past but for the future so that the new residences be better insulated. Many people are forced today to spend money to improve residences which initially were badly built and badly insulated, a mistake which we should not make again.

The provinces were asked to raise insulation standards as part of home construction standards. What they were asked was not out of this world. But now the opposition seems to object to the provinces being asked to do their share in energy conservation. This is what is happening. The Canadian government gives \$350 to anyone who wants to insulate his house, and now that the provinces realize it is a good program they would like to use these \$350 to improve the program and let people believe that our program was not that good and should be improved. Of course, Mr. Speaker, in any program there is always room for improvement.

But to the hon. member and the provinces which have criticized our program I say that if they want to improve it they should use their own money; they should not try to take the money the government of Canada wants to give out to citizens, leading people to believe that they are going to offer that program themselves.

I think the Canadian Home Insulation Program is exceptional and that it meets the present needs when it comes to energy conservation. I am pleased to see that all Canadian provinces, after a lot of shuffling, finally understood that their people wanted it and that this program will now be available in all parts of the country and not only in a few provinces.

[Mr. Ouellet.]

• (1442)

[English]

Mr. Paproski: Do you know what consultation means, André?

Mr. Whiteway: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Out of respect for the minister I let him finish his speech without interrupting him, but on five occasions I could have called a point of order.

Some hon. Members: Order.

Mr. Whiteway: The point of order is that five times—and the record will show me to be correct—he used the word "consultation". Specifically, he said "consultation with the provinces and municipalities".

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. This is not a point of order; it is a difference of opinion. The hon. member will have an opportunity to seek the floor and make his point.

Mr. Whiteway: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I hope the hon. member has a real point of order.

Mr. Whiteway: My point of order is not on a difference of opinion but on a difference of fact. My point of order is that the minister was misleading the House. I will quote him to prove that he deliberately misled the House in reading this document in front of me, the report of the western premiers' task force.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member will be the one responsible for the point of order if he uses the language he has used right now. I think he can make his point when he speaks in the debate. He has a difference of opinion with the minister. I do not think this point of dispute is a point of order. If he wants to, he can make a charge and then he will have to suffer the consequences of that charge.

[Translation]

Is the hon. member for Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine rising on a point of order?

Mr. Béchard: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister would allow me a question.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: This can only be done with the unanimous consent of the House, as the allotted time has expired. Does the House give its unanimous consent for the hon. member to ask a question?

[English]

Mr. Paproski: No.

Mr. Ouellet: Paproski said no.

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, we in the NDP welcome the motion brought forward by the hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mrs. Pigott) and we wish her well in her