

The Address—Mr. Clarke

poration running away with billions of taxpayers' dollars, not knowing what to do with them or to whom to give them.

In 1978, I was a member for an all-Party task force of the House which went to the United States to study the experience there and proposed legislation to deal with mortgage interest and property tax deductibility. They have some instruments which have run amok and if we go this route, we will be in the same position very soon. I refer to the instruments known as "Ginny Mae" and "Fanny Mae"—the General National Mortgage Assistance Program and the Federal National Mortgage Assistance Program. They all come under this huge bureaucracy called Housing and Urban Development, or HUD as it is known in the U.S. It is in the business of providing housing units. They have developed a huge bureaucracy to construct, operate and maintain their housing units. The result has been that the subsidized housing units are better than those the taxpayers who are paying for the subsidized housing can afford. In other words, the equation has gone backwards and those who are paying cannot afford the housing they are providing for those who supposedly cannot afford it.

● (1510)

In its portfolio, Mr. Speaker, Canada Mortgage and Housing has other examples of the ineptitude and bad management practices that I am afraid we are going to see more and more of. I refer specifically to a development in Vancouver called Granville Island, which some in Vancouver call "Basford's boondoggle" because he was the Minister of Urban Affairs at that time and Granville Island is located in his former riding of Vancouver Centre. At that time I was critical of CMHC taking over the Granville Island development, a light industrial area, to become a retail and artsy section of town. It is a very popular place, no question about that, but it has nothing whatever to do with mortgages or housing. What was the result? Well, through CMHC the taxpayer provided subsidized rents for selected merchants who managed to get into Granville Island and therefore unfairly compete with merchants in commercially provided space. The battle was on. The Government found the administration of this development to be a convenient place to put former Liberal Party supporters.

It has now come full circle, Mr. Speaker, because recently I was visited in my constituency office by a group of merchant tenants. They are having great difficulty with CMHC, which is using totally unprofessional and unbusinesslike methods in running this place so that it is going to be a disaster very soon. Certain tenants are being put out of their space for no reason. Their lease expires and they want to renew but cannot find out what the new rents are except that they are higher than the rents under private sector owners. That is what we are going to have if we do not have a better idea about what this Government wants to do in a critical area like housing which affects absolutely every Canadian.

I have heard a lot recently from the other side about the policies on this side, whether we have any or whether they are any good. Since the opening of this session of Parliament I was able to distribute a very long list of statements made by this

side about various policies. I would like to remind the House, especially Members opposite, that the policies of this Party, developed over many decades and which were in place on June 10, 1983, did not all of a sudden change on June 11 just because we had a leadership convention and elected a new Leader. The policies of this Party on various subjects are well known in basic terms, and as has been pointed out by the Leader and various other members of this Party, details will have to wait until the Government screws up its courage and gets around to calling an election. We have seen the statements by the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégín) about medicare, but it took until today for the Government to table a Bill which will tell us in detail what its policies are, at which time we will be able to respond.

Earlier this year we saw the former Minister of Transport fly his trial balloon or kite over the Crow rate policy. Then the Government wanted to know what our attitude was. Fortunately we waited because the big Liberal caucus in Quebec got to the Minister, and when the time came the Government introduced a Bill on the Crow rate which was totally different from the issues first put forward.

I see my time has expired, Mr. Speaker, and I thank you very much.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Are there Hon. Members who wish to ask questions of the Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Clarke)? If not, the Chair will recognize the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Chrétien).

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be taking part today in the debate on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and I would like to start by congratulating the sponsors of the motion. First of all, the Member for London-West (Mr. Burghardt) who made an excellent speech in the House and demonstrated, with great eloquence, his convictions about our country, and spoke about the participation of every part of Canada in this nation's progress and the fact that Canada is a united country and as such can prosper. I am also very happy to congratulate the Member for Lévis (Mr. Gourde), one of our junior Members. This reminds me of 1964, during the second session, when like the Member for Lévis, I was called upon to second the motion on the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. I feel the Member for Lévis has done so with great eloquence and persuasion, and I am sure his constituents will not regret the day they elected the Hon. Member as a successor to Raynald Guay, and I am sure he will have a successful career in federal politics.

Mr. Speaker, I am rising in the House today, because Friday was a particularly interesting day in the House of Commons.

[*English*]

Last Friday was a great day because it was in fact the first speech on policy from the Leader of the Opposition (Mr.