

think that this would be a special occasion to force the government to reconsider this bill as concerns assistance to the individual. I have nothing against this bill as such but I regret, as so many other hon. members, that it seems to favour almost exclusively those who already have money.

Now, contrarily to what my friends of the New Democratic Party would like to suggest, namely that we should force the financial institutions to lend part of their assets at rates established by the government, I would not endorse a bill which would force those who have money to lend it at lower rates than the current market. However, I think the responsibility of the government is to give, for example, a discount of 5 per cent on the interest in order to enable the individual to take advantage of a rate which could be of about 6 per cent.

It is clear—and I think that we have the evidence under our eyes—that the financing of a house is now nearly impossible for an individual with average income. Henceforth, I think the problem raised by the hon. members of the New Democratic Party is very serious and they are right when they ask the responsible minister to set up mechanisms, or at least to make a reimbursement on the interest the individuals have to pay now.

It would be a golden opportunity to call a general election. Mr. Speaker, I would be in favour of the New Democratic Party moving a motion and inviting all hon. members to vote on this. I think they would be supported by many members and we would then have accomplished something really valid for society.

We talk about increases in the cost of living, we deplore them, we ask ourselves which political party is right, but when it comes to proposing a concrete motion, we are left hanging in midair because of words which unluckily are not followed by action.

So, if we are really sincere and serious when we talk of helping directly, those who are truly in need, let us have concrete proposals, let us appeal to the hon. members who can say yes when the time comes to give precedence to the interests of the individual over that of the parties; then, we will have achieved something worthwhile for the individual. We will have enabled many a citizen to own a decent home, which is the understandable wish of many Canadians.

I would also add that the government could also help the individual considerably by cancelling the 11 per cent sales tax on building materials. I know several hon. members have already talked about this. The bill does not deal with that, and so I shall not dwell on it. But I do believe that the minister should consider that possibility, because to limit ourselves to ensuring financial institutions their security is simply not good enough. The main problem is that of helping the individual and enabling him to buy a home, thus making a better man of him, who will be more interested in assuming his responsibilities. I do feel that the point the NDP brought up this evening, that is, the need to set the maximum interest rate at 6 per cent, is altogether welcome.

I hope that the hon. members will have the courage to discuss this matter and that they will invite the government or even force it if necessary, to act in that way. I

### *Adjournment Debate*

think we should be able to do it in the present context. Thus, the individual could buy a house and Parliament would have accomplished something very valuable for society.

[*English*]

**Mr. Symes:** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to say a few words on this bill, but as it is approaching the hour of adjournment I will call it ten o'clock.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Is it agreed we call it ten o'clock?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

## PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[*English*]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

### HIGHWAYS—PROPOSED ROAD FROM MAINE THROUGH NEW BRUNSWICK TO QUEBEC—INVESTIGATION OF FEASIBILITY

**Mr. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury):** Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 12, I directed the following question to the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau):

**Mr. Speaker,** I wish to direct a question to the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of the strong support recently expressed by the Governor of the State of Maine for a direct corridor road from Maine through New Brunswick to Quebec, will the Prime Minister investigate the feasibility of such a project for the economic betterment of eastern Canada?

**The Prime Minister replied:**

**Mr. Speaker,** naturally I want to be helpful to the Governor of Maine and to the hon. member if he is making a policy proposal. My understanding is that the people of the Maritimes are quite divided on this subject and that, depending on where you live in the Maritimes, you are either for or against that corridor road. However, I am certainly open to further persuasion, and if there is a unanimous resolution of the Conservative party, for instance, supporting this corridor road it would naturally influence me to try to do something pleasing to them.

Once the political venom is stripped away, it is not apparent that the Prime Minister is not fully informed or yet impressed with the vital importance of the corridor road or the unity of our people in seeking it. Now is the time for every person of every political persuasion who favours this potentially great artery of commerce to unite in support of the project and dispel the myth that it is opposed by a large number of people.

With any great project or undertaking there are always those who are not in agreement and who speak against it. The hon. member for Madawaska-Victoria (Mr. Corbin) is one of these. These people have every right to express their views, but their views should not subordinate a fair and impartial investigation into the merits of the project. It is on the basis of fact, and not opinion, that this project should move forward or be dismissed. I have asked the