

*Order Paper Questions***QUESTIONS ON THE ORDER PAPER**

**Mr. Richard Grisé (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I ask that all questions on the Order Paper be allowed to stand.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Shall all the questions be allowed to stand?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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[Translation]

**MOTIONS FOR PAPERS**

**Mr. Richard Grisé (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Notices of Motions for the Production of Papers be allowed to stand.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Shall all Notices of Motions stand?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**GOVERNMENT ORDERS**

[English]

**THE BUDGET**

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed from Tuesday, February 23, consideration of the motion of Mr. Wilson (Etobicoke Centre):

That this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government.

And on the amendment of Mr. Garneau:

That the motion be amended by deleting all of the words after the word "That" and substituting the following therefor:

"This House regrets that the Budget

1. Failed to redress the inequities of the tax system created by Government policies put forward during the last three and one-half years;
2. failed to put into place a regional development policy to compensate for the high interest rate policy of the Government;
3. failed to put forward a credible plan to deal with the national debt that does not unduly punish lower and middle income Canadians; and
4. failed to specify a Canadian approach for dealing with the instabilities of the international monetary system."

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches):** Mr. Speaker, in the time I have remaining to me from yesterday I wish to spend a few minutes talking about the contents of the petition I presented to the House today. It dealt with homelessness in Canada and the inability or the unwillingness of the Government to bring forward any type of concrete policy to deal with this very serious social and economic problem. Certainly, in the course of numerous Budgets presented by the Government, including the last one, there has not been one provision that would alleviate the serious problem facing some estimated 100,000 Canadians who are homeless, and the thousands of others who are living in inadequate housing.

To illustrate that point *The Toronto Star* ran an article on homelessness in Metropolitan Toronto. It adequately describes the crisis that exists in that urban centre. Indeed, it could very well apply to major urban centres across the country.

It is pointed out in the article that in Metro Toronto alone some 20,000 people a year check into the various emergency hostels around Metro, filling each of the 2,500 beds every night of the year. Many more low income people stay in hostels, but they have been living in inadequate quarters. Some 10,000 or more people in Metro spend more than half their incomes on rent, with some spending as much as 70 per cent. According to data at the federal level, about 100,000 low income renters in Metro are desperate for decent housing which they can afford. Some 42,000 of these people are single.

I have addressed this question several times in the past in the House. I have urged the Government to do a number of things. The co-op housing sector is an alternative form of housing which many people could utilize. The co-op housing sector has provided housing for people in the disabled community, or for people on a fixed income. It has been filling a void in the housing market. Yet the Government has done absolutely nothing to encourage more construction of co-op housing. In fact, if anything, the Government has gone out of its way to restrict the limited effectiveness that the co-op housing movement has made. It could probably be argued that the co-op housing movement has probably done too good a job. The resistance to Government providing additional moneys for affordable housing is coming from the private development industry.

● (1520)

I would recommend to anyone in the House to read yesterday's *Hansard* at page 13071. In the last several months the Hon. Member for York East (Mr. Redway) has raised questions on homelessness, not only in York East but in Metro generally. The Hon. Member made a very strong and compassionate argument as to why the Government should be involved in developing affordable, decent housing.

In response to a question from the Hon. Member for York East, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Friesen) made what I could only consider to be an astounding and incredible statement. He is actually speaking on behalf of the Government, enunciating policy on behalf of the Government on housing matters. The Parliamentary Secretary said the following:

Is the Hon. Member asking the Government to get into the financing of the housing industry? I suggest to him that there are some financial institutions that would express concern about a Government heating up the market too much with easy money by getting into the housing industry. That would not solve the problem in Toronto. If it becomes too easy to finance, the market could be heated up even further.

The Parliamentary Secretary went on to suggest, if not actually state, that if a person could not find decent housing in