

*Housing*

sad. In my view this kind of root canal economics escapes all logic.

The community services contribution program generates about \$1.5 billion in construction each year and assists municipalities to provide essential services and rehabilitate older neighbourhoods. To my way of thinking, what government is all about is not to interfere with the free enterprise business community and not to buy oil companies, but to assist communities.

Speaking in the House, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Cosgrove), who is responsible for housing, asked:

What is the appropriate responsibility of this level of government? What is the appropriate level of responsibility of the provincial or municipal governments? Should the federal government be funding the construction of municipal buildings? We have to ask ourselves, does that make sense in this day and age?

The minister continued:

We have to ask ourselves whether there are other programs to which the government should respond that have a higher priority.

I see the minister is in the House tonight. Where are these programs which have a higher priority? Where are the government programs which will rejuvenate our slumping construction industry? Where are the programs which would enable Canadians to purchase homes at affordable prices and at affordable rates of interest? Where are the programs which have a higher priority which would provide shelter, a basic roof over our heads?

The great Canadian poet, Robert Service, once wrote:

But the gnawing hunger of lonely men for a home and all that it means; For a fireside far from the cares that are, four walls and a roof above;

In this day and age and under this government it is unlikely we will see that.

Where are the programs which have a higher priority which would ease an already tight rental unit market? Does the minister realize that in some urban centres the percentage of unoccupied or unrented units is well below 1 per cent? That is the case in my riding. Where are the minister's programs which have a higher priority which would provide jobs for Canadians in the construction industry and which would provide spin-off jobs in the supply and services industries and plants right across this great Canada of ours?

One of my closest associates is in the building business in my home riding. He has progressed and is highly respected in the community, but for the first time in the history of that company he has laid men off. Where are these programs which have a higher priority which would keep the forest industry and sawmills from closing down and throwing employees out of work? The hon. member from British Columbia who spoke mentioned this.

The answer to all these questions is that the "higher priorities" simply do not exist. The priorities of this government have been the Constitution and a phony charter of rights, metric forced from the top down, bilingualism and closure. Those are the priorities. The government is devoid of solutions and, indeed, I am not even sure if it fully understands the problems.

The minister responsible for housing insulted Canadians right across this bountiful country when he suggested that the Canadian dream of an ivy covered cottage was perhaps beyond the reach of Canadians. Imagine that in this land! The minister is right; the laissez-faire attitude of this government about the economy is what is crippling us.

[Translation]

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order, please. It being 9.45 p.m., pursuant to order made Thursday, February 25, 1982, it is my duty to interrupt the proceedings and put forthwith every question necessary to dispose of the motion now before the House.

[English]

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** All those in favour of the motion will please say yea.

**Some hon. Members:** Yea!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. Members:** Nay!

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** In my opinion the yeas have it.

*And more than five members having risen:*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Call in the members.

The House divided on the motion (Mr. Cosgrove) which was agreed to on the following division:

*(Division No. 153)*

YEAS

Messrs.

Andre	Comtois	Dupras
Appolloni	Cooper	Ellis
(Mrs.)	Corbin	Epp
Axworthy	Cosgrove	Ethier
Bachand	Côté (Mrs.)	Evans
Beatty	Cousineau	Ferguson
Beauchamp-Niquet	Crouse	Fisher
(Mrs.)	Cullen	Fleming
Bégin (Miss)	Cyr	Flis
Berger	Darling	Fox
Blais	Daudlin	Fretz
Blaker	Dawson	Friesen
Bloomfield	de Corneille	Frith
Bossy	Demers	Gamble
Breau	Deniger	Garant
Bussières	Dingwall	Gass
Campbell	Dinsdale	Gauthier
(Miss)	Dion	Gendron
(South West Nova)	Dionne	Gimatel
Campbell	(Chicoutimi)	Gingras
(LaSalle)	Dionne	Gourd
Campbell	(Northumberland- Miramichi)	(Argenteuil-Papineau)
(Cardigan)	Domn	Gourde
Chénier	Dubois	(Lévis)
Chrétien	Duclos	Gray
Clark	Dupont	Greenaway
(Yellowhead)		Guilbault