

*Tight Money Policy*

adequate housing program and other things which he did not mention such as an adequate school system in Canada including an adequate university system throughout the country, and an adequate medicare program. Only by having at our disposal a very large part of the savings of the Canadian people can we achieve these things. Only in this way will we be able to deal with the rural conditions mentioned by the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Sauve) the other day.

The rural rehabilitation program will involve very large public expenditures. I am hoping those public expenditures will take the form of public investment to create a viable economic area for the people now living in the depressed rural areas of the country. My hon. friend from Northumberland suggests that the principle sin of this government—I do not know how he selects one sin over another—is that it has denied builders and prospective home owners the needed mortgage funds. I suppose when one stretches this a bit one can say it is the responsibility of the government, but I think the responsibility goes further than that.

I am very much disturbed to see in my own province of British Columbia that the investment in our major extraction industry is taking place without any regard whatever for a balanced economy and without any regard whatever for the development of the social capital which should accompany such investments. I suspect, Mr. Speaker, that one of our problems with regard to funds for housing stems from the fact that neither this government nor its Conservative predecessor nor the Liberal predecessor of that Conservative government has seen fit to take the necessary action to divert to the public treasury a very much larger proportion of the funds which now go into the treasuries of these enormous private corporations engaged in particular, as I was saying, in the extraction industries in western Canada and in parts of central and eastern Canada too.

This, of course, is the point at which we in this party part company with our friends in the Liberal and Conservative parties. We do not feel that the economy of this country should be operated primarily for the benefit of a number of fortunate people who own and control the productive enterprises of this nation. We feel very strongly that they should be servants of the Canadian people and that the people of Canada should have some say with regard to where the returns from our productive enterprises are to be

[Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands).]

channelled. They should not be channelled merely, as my hon. friend from Northumberland suggested, where the savings of the individual Canadian insurance policyholder are going to be channelled but rather where the real wealth is.

Our enormous internally generated savings are now in the hands of large corporations, and when they are in the hands of foreign corporations they are largely responsible for creating the condition that our present Minister of Finance and his predecessor both have deplored, the expanding foreign ownership of Canadian industry. To my mind this is the point at which there has to be a diversion from private to public hands if we are to deal with the problem of adequate housing and these other problems in various areas of the country.

To my mind it is fantastic that we should have existing at the same time in Canada a shortage of skilled workers and some—I do not have the exact figure—300,000-odd unemployed. Obviously no real attempt has been made to grapple with the problem of supplying our economic machine with skilled hands and at the same time coping with the problem of unemployment. I agree with the hon. member for Northumberland that there is, at least in some parts of the country, an acute shortage of money for housing projects, and I certainly agree with him that a great deal of those funds should be funnelled into middle and low income housing. I am not quite sure that he is on sound ground in his idea that we should encourage individual home ownership. I like the idea myself; I own my own home and I would not want to do anything else. I wonder, however, in this day and age and with the growth of the large metropolis, whether this is going to be feasible much longer and whether the people of Canada might be well advised to take a page from the book of the people of Europe and the practice which has been followed there for many decades whereby people live and expect to live during their whole lives in apartments. There is no reason that our apartments should not have all the amenities required for a family. We have perhaps fallen behind on that score in Canada.

• (4:10 p.m.)

All too many apartment owners put up signs, "no children wanted". I see no reason, however, why dwelling units cannot be designed to cater to the needs of young families through adequate playgrounds, recreational areas and facilities within and without the