

referring to the Liberals across the floor. What kind of a loan shark in Canada in November, 1980, would have to be paid \$35,318 in interest to pay off \$1,521.80 in principal? That is roughly \$20 for every \$1 principal. Perhaps one of the Liberal members across the way would know what kind of a loan shark that is, although they seem to be totally unaware, which demonstrates the validity and the real emergency of this debate. These loan sharks are the banks, the trust and loan companies across Canada. During the first five years of a \$50,000 25-year mortgage at 14.5 per cent, that is precisely what happened. Those loan shark figures are skyrocketing now.

Housing throughout my riding varies both in value and in style. What does not vary is the impact of rising rates. The mortgage must be paid, so the money comes from other things. Most families have to give up on clothing, vehicle expenses, food, dental treatment and toys for their children. The list goes on. The comment made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) a few days ago that Canadians simply have to reorganize their priorities in terms of their dinner table and what they supply to their children is really a very callous and shallow attitude to take toward anyone in this country.

Across Canada this year over 300,000 families will renew old low-cost mortgages for Liberal high-cost ones. Well over 10 per cent of those families, close to 32,000, will be renewing mortgages. They will have to pay in excess of 30 per cent of their income on housing because of these new rates. The Minister of Finance probably pays less than 10 per cent of his income, if he pays any at all, or if he has any mortgage left to pay. On a \$50,000 mortgage in Terrace at today's rate, a 25-year term payment will be over \$750 a month. And what can we compare that figure to? As my colleague the hon. member for Hamilton-Mountain (Mr. Deans) pointed out, the average weekly income is only \$318 across Canada today. The average worker in my riding with a \$50,000 mortgage would pay out over 50 per cent of his or her income on housing, on the mortgage alone, to say nothing of heating, repairs, light, water and taxes. In British Columbia, the annual minimum wage income is now only \$6,200. Social assistance for a family of four is now \$9,100. Neither family, either working at the minimum or on social assistance, could live in a \$50,000 home and neither family today could live in a \$25,000 home. I challenge Liberal members to produce for me somewhere in Ottawa a \$25,000 home.

● (0350)

For families renewing this year, the increase is likely to be about 56 per cent. That is 300,000 families. What does this mean to fishermen, loggers, and small businesses? Again, cumulative interest rate impacts are difficult to assess. Lay-offs and bankruptcies are only signals we can look at. Many of these families borrow from within their own families or find other means of staying on their feet.

In Skeena, these national figures pale at the regional reality. In Cassiar—and I made a point of telephoning after midnight to confirm this with one of my constituents—gasoline today is

selling at \$1.74 a gallon. That is something we should reflect on when filling our tanks in Ottawa. A trip to Watson Lake, the nearest town for groceries and an outing, is \$40 return on the bus, an hour and a half ride. A one-way flight from Prince Rupert to Sandspit on a Goose is over \$50. I do not relate that to the Liberal ads.

Do we need to ask for a made-in-Canada policy, or is that group over there to be forced into it by social not economic collapse alone? I am most serious in raising the social issue as being one equally as complex and vital as the economic discussions we have had from both sides of the House tonight.

There have been almost 20,000 personal bankruptcies in Canada this year and over 200,000 Canadians laid off. As an earlier speaker pointed out, if we look at the October to October statistics, a quarter of a million Canadians have been laid off. There have been over 6,000 business bankruptcies and throughout 1980, almost 1,000 men and women were laid off per working day.

Who is getting laid off during all of this? It is certainly not the rich, those with money in the bank as opposed to those with loans at the bank and those who cannot afford loans at all. We hear governor Bouey saying that is okay. I wonder if many members in this House ever really wonder why. Surely the Liberals are aware that the profits of the big five banks passed \$325 million in the first quarter of this year.

How much does the high interest rate policy hurt the wealthy? That is something we should reflect on when talking about an economic crisis. Let us look at those who have substantial incomes, have paid off their mortgages and have money in the bank or invested. That is a very different picture. The top side of the economic wheel is a very different place from the poor and middle-income world provided by the government, and as demonstrated by the hon. member for Saskatoon East (Mr. Ogle) in regard to the global implications of the problem and short-run monetarist policy.

I wish to read several quotations from the National Council on Welfare regarding the real social implications of these serious economic times in Canada. I quote:

Social interaction patterns can be very much disrupted by unemployment. The loss of social contact through the work setting is further aggravated by the tendency of unemployed persons to withdraw from friends, relatives and community life . . . Within the family, social interaction patterns can be upset since the loss of a job and income may diminish the unemployed persons' status and authority. Shifts in roles within the family, coupled with changes in the unemployed workers' personality, can provoke considerable stress and in extreme cases can lead to family breakdown.

Turned inward, these feelings of bitterness, rage, and powerlessness may result in depression that becomes further exacerbated by the self-doubt and blame that develop when job hunting is not successful. Anxiety over financial difficulties, both now and in the future, also contributes to the depressed mental state that has been found to characterize many laid off workers—

Anything that widens the gap between income and need—the loss of a breadwinner's wages because of unemployment or illness, escalating rent, sudden rises in fuel and grocery costs, any unexpected and unavoidable expense—can plunge a poor family into crisis.

Having had many years' experience working with people in communities, I can state that serious economic problems can cause problems in terms of relationships between members of the family, child abuse and crime.