

Housing

ment housing policy but who has left the chamber now because he is not interested in native housing. He was found guilty by the court on contempt charges, yet he has been reinstated and is now sitting on the Treasury benches. Then there was this other great man hired in 1972, William Teron. He is more affectionately known in this chamber as "the hon. member for commerce capital". The other day he told a reporter who questioned him about his private interests and about possible conflicts of interest which may exist in view of his responsibilities in the field of native housing, "I am an urbanologist". Whatever that means, I do not know. I have shopped around, Mr. Speaker, but have not been able to find out what it means.

Mr. Lang: Check your Canadian dictionary.

Mr. Oberle: I asked one native leader what he thought it meant, and he said he did not know but that he hoped it was a terminal disease.

Mr. Teron was to develop a delivery system for the native and rural housing program which would produce 40,000 to 50,000 homes. He spent millions of dollars on this. The minister mentioned today how much will be spent in the development of some kind of delivery system. This is being engineered, of course, in the back rooms of this time-honoured institution without consulting the native people. There has never been, and never will be, consultation so long as this administration sits across the aisle. This program has not worked. It is restricted to population centres of less than 2,500 people and that, obviously, is a key reason why there will never be 50,000 homes.

Most natives who migrate from remote rural areas and move closer to cities now live in the fringe areas. They find they cannot cope with urban living or with the zoning by-laws of larger cities, so they live in the fringe areas and this puts them outside this particular program. There is also the question of the urban native housing policy which fits into the motion we are discussing today. We were hoping to give the minister some ideas in this regard and talk about some of the things we spoke to him in private about which are contained in letters and publications, such as the bulletin published by the Canadian association in support of native people, which dedicated a whole issue to native housing.

The minister does not have the time to sit here and listen to us, Mr. Speaker. We could have told him that he would have to lift the ceiling of 2,500 population to give the program broader application. We could have told him that he would have to establish a tripartite consultation process through which the provinces, the federal government and native people could evolve programs and policies that would be effective. However, the government was concerned that the program might work, which is why this type of consultation process has not taken place.

There are many components to the building of native housing. For example, local native people have got together with their brothers and built houses. There is what is known as a "sweat equity" where a native has experienced for the first time pride of accomplishment and achievement; where a native

[Mr. Oberle.]

child for the first time has experienced something it has never experienced before, namely, pride in his parents for having achieved something for the family that is lasting, valuable and good. Economic development should be integrated with our native housing program, but the government is just not interested.

Let me talk for a moment about the urban native housing program, which is another classic, Mr. Speaker. Two years ago the former minister of state for urban affairs said that there would be a policy on urban native housing within six months, but there has not been one. On October 20, 1976, two full years after he promised a native housing program, I asked whether he had a mandate to develop such a policy, and how it was coming along, and he answered:

● (1640)

Mr. Speaker, certainly there is a mandate with regard to a rural and native housing program. It applies to all low income Canadians in rural areas. We also have a mandate for urban dwellers, but not specifically for natives. It is for all low income Canadians. We do not discriminate between native and non-native Canadians.

What a declaration to make. The former minister does not discriminate against the white race by giving natives special concessions with regard to housing. What a reassurance it would be for all white Canadians to know that their neighbourhoods will be free of the redskin and free of all the unsightly things which are inherent in native housing developments. I suppose, like the new Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Ouellet), the former minister also means that he is not going to discriminate against people in Quebec. The new minister will not punish them for what they did the other day in Quebec. The people of Quebec will eventually be the judges of what this government does, and the wrath of the Lord will come down and strike the members of the government and make them all urbanologists.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired. I have given him about three extra minutes because of a point of order.

Mr. Paproski: Give him another three minutes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Unless there is unanimous consent, I will have to recognize another hon. member.

An hon. Member: Let him go on.

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: There does not seem to be unanimous consent to allow the hon. member to complete his remarks, and he has already been allowed three extra minutes so I will have to recognize the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco).

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak on this motion I am not at all surprised that hon. members opposite have denied the hon. member for Prince