

*The Budget—Mrs. Pigott*

cial level, leaving the federal government free to use its resources of time and finances to support research and co-ordination. Of course, this has been constantly spoken about by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Clark) and by the hon. member for St. John's East.

One example of the need for long range, thorough planning is in the area of accommodation for the aged. The pattern for so many of our older citizens is not uncommonly to move from a house to an apartment, to a lodge, to a nursing home. Many of these people have little or no choice of housing design. Too often the resulting housing is unsuitable. Many elderly Canadians feel that less emphasis should be placed on designing housing specifically for their age group. Instead of more attention being placed on designing housing specifically for their age group, more attention should be paid to a plan to integrate the needs of all age groups. This situation and many other housing-related issues point to the need for increased research into various options and improved co-ordination between federal and provincial authorities.

**Miss Bégin:** It is completely provincial now.

**Mrs. Pigott:** That is so, but research is not being conducted to ensure that it is properly done. It is not co-ordinated. The hon. Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) is not co-ordinating this type of thing. It is not being done at all.

It is discouraging to see that the budget, delivered at a time when housing difficulties are becoming increasingly critical, did not address itself more directly to the solution of those problems through increased research or aid to home ownership. Housing in Canada is regional in nature and results in the need for a flexible approach on the part of the federal government. In order to promote greater flexibility in the development and implementation of federal-provincial housing policies, avoiding duplication and reducing complexity, this budget could have introduced global funding to the provinces.

The Minister of State for Urban Affairs has promised, promised, promised; but all that came out of his department was the game of musical chairs which he plays with the management level of his department and the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The Canadian home insulation program and the neighbourhood improvement program are examples of the need to re-evaluate and restructure housing policy. In our present circumstances there is no question that energy saving measures are worth-while, necessary and critical. The Canadian home insulation program could be a valuable part of our energy conservation effort. However, the person who observed that a camel is a horse designed by a committee might well be prompted to make the same comment about the CHIP program.

● (1632)

At a time when the Minister of Finance prefaced his budget by those wonderful words suggesting Canadians need to apply themselves diligently to build a better future through hard work and discipline, the management of this program shows no evidence of diligence and discipline. The Minister of Finance in his budget suggested that growth of spending by govern-

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ments at all levels had been brought down. In that case CHIP is the exception that proves the rule, as Bob and Ray would say.

Instead of reducing spending we have a program administered through a single, central office and through new regional offices, while existing Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation facilities could have been used to take advantage of offices already in place and expertise already in existence. Just eight seats away from the Minister of Finance we have a minister of a department that is doing nothing but duplicating existing building and programs.

Perhaps the one exception to the rule of this duplication was overlooked because there is no Central Mortgage and Housing office conveniently located to the Prime Minister's Montreal riding. That is where he put the new CHIP program. One question further the duplication of an entirely separate federal administration of the insulation program in light of provincial comments urging the co-ordination integration of federal and provincial conservation programs. It would be a good idea to rename the position of Minister of State for Urban Affairs. Perhaps we could call it the ministry of state for empire building and interference in provincial affairs. Don't you think, Mr. Speaker, that would be a good new name for it?

Why was CHIP not more complete? Imagine not including labour costs and full installation. Who conceived a program for proper insulation in Canada that did not include windows, doors or basements? Of course, we know that CHIP was designed in a hurry in the Prime Minister's office because they thought there was an election coming last August. Everybody knows that the Prime Minister's office specializes in insulating the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and the cabinet from the reality of the real needs of Canadians.

While the Canadian home insulation program offers unnecessary duplication, let us take a look at the neighbourhood improvement program which shows us how ineffective management in the ministry led to the elimination of an excellent program. At a time when the Minister of Finance is asking all Canadians to show discipline and diligence the management of one of his fellow ministers has led to the interruption of a rehabilitation program whose expiry date was written into the National Housing Act.

Provincial and municipal response has been strongly in favour of NIP as a vehicle for revitalizing local neighbourhoods. In an era when many areas of federal-provincial contacts are strained, this program was well received. In spite of this positive reaction, and knowing the expiry date well in advance, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs allowed this program to lapse in the absence of any substitute measures. I am afraid the Minister of State for Urban Affairs has been so preoccupied with his party activities that he has not been able to carry out his responsibilities.

Present housing policies show a fascination for numbers. This government seems clearly to believe that a large number of housing starts is the magic solution to the housing problems of Canada. Let us consider the AHOP program. That program is causing great grief to many persons; many people who have