

*The Address—Mr. Cafik*

level, something can be done to alleviate the hardships of the people of my area.

First of all, there is the problem of housing. We have all heard a great deal about the housing situation today. Most of the members on the other side have indicated that we have not recognized the problem and are not moving on it. One of the problems for some of my constituents is that we are moving too fast. The task force on housing which has been set up is meeting in the Toronto area on the last day of this month and the first two days of the following month. Some people would like more time to prepare their briefs to this task force, but they do not have the time. Surely the reason for this is that we are so anxious to solve the problem that we cannot give them sufficient time. Housing is a great problem in our area. People desperately need homes, but those in the lower income brackets cannot afford them because of high land cost. Many of the people in my area cannot even afford to pay the property tax on their present homes.

I should like to bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, that land taxes in southern Pickering township per \$5,000 assessment are roughly \$75 a year more than anywhere else in Canada. This is a burden that cannot be tolerated and must be overcome in some co-operative way. In addition, the present high interest rate on mortgages is a depressive factor. However, the government is doing something about this and interest rates have begun to fall. I hope that we can do more.

Many ordinary working men and women in my area are concerned about income taxes and particularly that such taxes be more equitably applied than is the case today. The Carter report has suggested some ideas that we could use in order to correct some of the injustices of the present tax system. I believe it would be in the interest of the nation thoroughly to study the Carter report and to implement as many recommendations as we can to equalize the tax burden on all the people of this country, so that none are privileged and none are taken advantage of.

Since half of my riding is an agricultural area, I should like to say that I believe much more can be done as well in this field. I should like to relate, if I may have your indulgence, a story about two farmers in order to illustrate the plight of the farmer today. These two farmers had bought sweep-stake tickets. One farmer said to the other: "If you win the \$100,000, what are you going to do with the money?" The other farmer

[Mr. Cafik.]

gave the usual answer, which was that he was going to buy himself a boat and a cottage and might even tour the world. When he had concluded he turned to the farmer who had asked him the question and asked him what he would do with the \$100,000. The first farmer replied: "Oh, I think I would just keep on farming till it had all gone". This, Mr. Speaker, illustrates the plight of many farmers, and something must be done to assist them.

I think something should also be done for the elderly people in my riding, as well as all across this great country, to offset the effects of inflation on those such as the retired who have to live on fixed incomes. They are caught in a cost-price squeeze that they really cannot get out of. An injustice is, I think, being inflicted upon these people about which something must be done.

I should also like to say a few words in connection with labour. This summer we have seen many strikes, though God knows I defend the right of labour to strike. Certainly I would do nothing to try to upset the balance of power, as it were, that exists today. But I think that with proper study we should be able to come to a solution which would settle labour problems in the interests of both sides and thus avoid any suffering by the Canadian people as has been the case in recent years.

I have the privilege of having two Indian reserves in my riding and I wish to add my comments and convictions to those of the previous speaker who so eloquently spoke on behalf of Indians and the need for justice to be done.

On the national scene I believe there are some basic and important issues, one of which is parliamentary reform. I think we must do something to give this parliament a system that will meet the needs of the 20th century. I do not think we can live with the rules of 1962. I believe that the Canadian people expect parliament to be able to respond quickly and energetically to meet their problems. I earnestly ask that all members of this house bring to bear what pressure they can on their leaders to bring about the achievement of workable rules for this house, rules that will allow us to move quickly in the interests of the Canadian people.

The primary challenge, in my opinion, is to feed the hungry of the world. This is the most important international issue. If we are to have peace we must eradicate the causes of unrest. I think the chief causes of unrest are lack of education, lack of food and lack of development. Since we are an agricultural