

Why are the government's policies inadequate? The main reason is that the housing policies of the government are not based on human need but rather on human greed. Decisions regarding investment capital, interest rates, numbers and types of homes to be built, are based solely on opportunities for profit. We cannot develop a native housing program on the basis of the profit motive.

The private building corporations are not interested in building homes for Indians, for Metis or for Eskimo people. They want profits, as evidenced by their recent exodus to the United States in which country, to date, they have invested \$1.5 billion. They have a market place mentality and, this being so, the whole onus for the provision of adequate native housing falls on the government.

Two weeks ago we heard the Minister of Finance (Mr. Macdonald) announce changes in AIB guidelines which affected the valuation of land. This was done to assist developers even though their 1976 profits are excessive. The minister's action is an illustration of government thinking with regard to framing plans to meet the human needs of the native people. This is why Tony Belcourt, the President of the Native Council of Canada, said in 1973, speaking of the tarpaper shacks in which native people live, "They are not safe and they are not healthy: they are bloody time bombs." This is why I believe the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Anderson) was attempting to defend the indefensible.

By and large, I am sure the adjectives used by Mr. Belcourt fully described native housing in Canada. If there are certain exceptions in the hon. member's own riding they do not appear to deny the general rule that native housing across Canada is a disgrace and a disaster. This is why the following appears in the August, 1976, issue of *Bulletin* as the native interpretation of the Habitat Conference held in June in Vancouver:

The Indian people who played their role in the formal conference felt betrayed when Canada refused to accept the United Nations position that profits from the sale of land should not be kept by individuals but should be used for the public good, and when Canada's presentation completely ignored the situation of the native people. But then, those principles—the wholesale and uncaring neglect of Indian people and the selling of our mother earth like a colour TV for profit and greed—are the principles this country is built on, so they shouldn't have been surprised.

That is what the native people felt about Canada's position at Habitat.

What did some of the native leaders say with regard to the native housing program? Bob Douglas, writing in the *Ottawa Citizen* on August 5, 1976, stated:

Only 2,797 units were built, bought or rehabilitated for the rural and native poor in 1975, the first full year of the program. Native leaders say some of the original goals of the native housing program have been lost. The Native Council of Canada decided last week end to review the program and propose changes to the federal government.

What are the leading native councillors saying? Gloria George, the immediate past president, said there has been insensitivity and lack of interest by the CMHC, ranging from some regional directors up to the corporation head, William Teron. Then she added, according to the report in the *Citizen*:

Housing

Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson seems committed to the housing plans even if some of his officials are not.

We know what has happened to the former minister of state for urban affairs. A Native Council paper quoted in the report says:

The native associations themselves have not consistently supported the concept of maximum client involvement.

This is why it is necessary for the minister to involve not only parliamentarians but the native people themselves.

What is the second reason for the disastrous performance of the program so far? It is the non-involvement of the native majority. On this aspect, Peter Puxley, an expert and excellent adviser on Indian affairs, said he was astonished at the extent of this failure to become involved. He took the view that if control were to be transferred to the hinterlands there was a prior need for the establishment of community development corporations. People would then "learn by doing". Slow initial growth was to be expected, but along with whatever progress was made we could count on the development of new skills and closer unity. It would also be necessary to build an infrastructure. That is why I wish the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development were here today. He is attempting to put in place by April, 1977, a program which lacks the infrastructure necessary to develop the skills needed to carry out the actual building. The necessary corporate forms are lacking, for example, private corporations, non-profit corporations, and co-operative corporations.

The third aspect is the failure of CMHC. The president and its officials are not sensitized to the needs of the native people. When I heard the Minister of State for Urban Affairs speak this afternoon I was convinced that he is not sensitized, either, to the needs of the native people. The results indicate this to be the case. A target of 50,000 units within five years was set. We now hear that 2,700 were completed by the end of 1975—5 per cent—and that by the end of 1976 we might have between 5,000 and 6,000. What an arrogant attitude the minister of state displayed this afternoon when he said that some of us do not understand how the program works. A former president of CMHC, now deputy minister advising the minister, dismissed the very person who could have co-ordinated a program and delivered these houses, namely, Walter Rudnicki.

● (1740)

Let me review the facts, Mr. Speaker. In September, 1973, the Native Council of Canada had an interview with the then minister, the Minister of Justice (Mr. Basford), and pointed out what a serious condition these homes were in. They referred to them as tarpaper shacks which were fire traps and unhealthy, and which could blow up at any time. The minister was shocked and amazed to find that there was no housing program in place and demanded that his officials put a program in place within ten days. He was then advised that there was insufficient time for any input on the part of the native people, which would be necessary to make the program successful. However, since Walter Rudnicki was the chief execu-