

Yesterday, and to some extent this afternoon, our friends from the New Democratic Party clothed themselves, as they often do, in self-righteousness and pointed out that they were the only members of the House who had any humanitarian instincts, any concern for the housing needs of the people of Canada. For a group that claims to be the only humanitarians in the House, I am surprised, as the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) was, that they repeatedly have to tell us and the people of Canada that they are the only humanitarians. I thought that humanitarianism was something that was obvious, that stood out, and that we need not be told about it once, twice, three times during the course of each speech.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Basford:** Obviously, the Canadian people, all of whom are humanitarian, have not bought their sales talk.

**Mr. Nelson:** They sure did in the west.

**Mr. Basford:** Most of the speeches have dealt not with the bill at all but with the housing situation in Canada and measures that were passed by this House a couple of months ago. I had hoped that the research assistants of the New Democratic Party had read Bill C-133 and the information put out just recently by CMHC as to those new amendments dealing with all the new housing programs of the government. But obviously they have not done so. I would encourage them to do so, Mr. Speaker, so that they know what the housing policy of this government is.

In the speeches of these hon. members yesterday and today, there was no mention of the measures passed by this House, and now implemented by CMHC and the government of Canada, dealing with problems relating to non-profit housing corporations and how benefits have been expanded, the new co-operative housing program, the neighbourhood improvement program, and the repair and rehabilitation program that my hon. friend from Quebec spoke about the other day, all of which are aimed at low and moderate income Canadians and which correct some of the housing difficulties that they encounter.

Similarly, there was no mention of the measures this House just passed, and which are now implemented, regarding land assembly and the amount of money set aside for that program, or the programs dealing with public housing, or the amendments to the National Housing Act with regard to Indian housing and the right of Indians to avail themselves totally and completely of programs under the National Housing Act.

**Mr. Benjamin:** Get to the bill.

**Mr. Basford:** There was no mention by them of the assisted home ownership program, about which I wish the members of the New Democratic Party would read and persuade people to take advantage of. I would be happy to send them a description of that program.

The hon. member for Moose Jaw (Mr. Neil), I think it was, said words to the effect that we need a housing program to look after people with incomes between \$6,000 to \$7,000. Details may be obtained from the program itself, but generally it will serve families in the income range of from \$6,000 to \$11,000 per annum by way of subsidized

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interest rates, reducing interest rates to as low as 6 per cent for people in the low and moderate income ranges.

The best thing that this group could do for housing, Mr. Speaker, is to persuade at least three of the governments with which I think they have some connection, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, to take full advantage of these newly passed programs. Then, instead of two days of rhetoric we might get some houses built in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. I hope the members of the New Democratic Party will take that message with them to those three provinces, and that my hon. friend from Quebec who has just spoken will also take that message to the government of Quebec and ask them to take full advantage of the programs that this parliament has just enacted.

This bill is another measure, another instrument, in a comprehensive housing program and must be related to the other measures of which I have spoken which were enacted in Bill C-133, the amendments to the National Housing Act. This bill will benefit a very substantial number of people. However, the criticism of last evening apparently was that it is a bill that is directed toward the middle income people who are looking for their own mortgage money. Apparently a bill addressed to the middle income people in the eyes of the NDP is a bad bill. While Bill C-133 was aimed at and provided a program for, low and moderate income people this bill is aimed at those who can make their own way, but apparently it is not for this parliament to address itself to those Canadians who want to and can make their own way. According to the speeches of last night this bill is bad in NDP eyes because it attends to the problems of homeowners in Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg. I think a bill which looks after the homeowners of Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg and Ottawa is a pretty good bill. But apparently those are areas of the country which this parliament should not concern itself with because these are cities which, at least according to the NDP, should be ignored.

● (1730)

This bill will help people in those cities and others because essentially it will make it easier and more attractive for people, not just institutions, to invest their savings in residential mortgages. It is designed to bring in new and often small people, small savers, who now do not operate in the mortgage field, by making mortgages easier to deal in and by making them, in relation to other forms of investment, more attractive to institutions like pension funds and credit unions so that they may come into the mortgage business more heavily.

The purpose of this bill is to attract new money into mortgages. There has been a good deal of discussion in the speeches about the banks, life insurance companies and trust companies. This bill is not directed at and will not benefit them. They are in the mortgage business. This bill is not aimed at bringing those people into the residential mortgage business. It was drafted in a technical way to answer specifically the request, for example, from a group in my province which is important, the British Columbia Central Credit Union. This union, and the credit unions across Canada who are increasingly playing an important part in residential mortgages, wanted to avail themselves