

In the face of those construction disincentives, co-operative and non-profit housing ventures appear a better vehicle but there was no help in the budget for them.

We find this is one of the main complaints we have about this bill being discussed in committee tonight.

In conclusion, we believe that to counteract the present problems a plan for an economic recovery in the housing field must include a lowering of interest rates so that construction of rental accommodation is stimulated and the cost of financing individual home ownership comes down into the real world. We want to revitalize CMHC, with direct lending powers to the public. We also want a greater emphasis by CMHC on non-profit and co-operative housing projects. I have asked the minister, who is sitting here tonight, why he cannot approach the banks to require them to invest the enormous profits they have made from high interest rates in a lending portfolio. This would bring down mortgage rates, and it could provide mortgage assistance to those Canadians earning under \$35,000.

We also want restoration of the community services contribution program. This is very important if municipalities are to service land and buy up and preserve land for affordable housing. We think the government should allocate \$250 million to this program. Of course, we believe there must be a direct leasing of serviced lots for housing on Crown lands. We believe that mortgage finance assistance is needed for low-income and average-income families. A much tougher capital gains tax is needed to end speculation in land, which causes even further housing price increases.

Mr. Gustafson: Mr. Chairman, it is a privilege for me to speak about Bill C-54. The basic problems which exist because of the Income Tax Act are such that they are having an effect on the economy, an effect on the small businessman and an effect on farmers, all of which are counterproductive. This is the same type of effect government policy has on the oil industry today. In Saskatchewan, the oil industry is flat on its back, and I mean it is flat on its back. There are hundreds of people out of work. Yet, the Minister of Employment and Immigration comes to Saskatchewan and announces \$4 million of taxpayers' money is to be allocated to give people jobs to provide service which is not needed.

As I have only one minute, I will deal with the topic of capital gains taxes as they apply to farms. The minister and the government told farmers the valuation day would be changed from December 31, 1971, to 1974. To date this has not been done. Many farmers are having very serious problems transferring their farms from one generation to another because of the capital gains provision.

This government, it seems, is saying that that is not its concern.

Progress reported.

Adjournment Debate

● (2200)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

REGULATORY REFORM—TASK FORCE REPORT—STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Chuck Cook (North Vancouver-Burnaby): Mr. Speaker, on January 19 I asked the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Johnston) for a statement with regard to what had been done about the special task force report on regulatory reform. For six months a small group of members of Parliament, on a non-partisan basis, together with an excellent staff, worked extremely hard to prepare a report that would aid the government in attempting to get a handle on those who make regulations, the process of making regulations and other possibilities to simplify the process and eliminate some of the difficulties of the private sector in dealing with bureaucrats.

What kind of answer did I get? I got an answer that answered nothing. The President of the Treasury Board said, among other things, that the report was not gathering dust, that the government was looking it over and that in the area of reform of regulatory process things were being considered. I must say it was a very equivocal answer. He said, in effect, that it is being considered.

I rise to speak tonight because the guts of the report, the important recommendations, were not even referred to in the minister's answer. I might add that I looked very diligently at his speech in Toronto last Thursday to the advisory committee of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and again there was a vast wasteland of silence on the most important recommendation of the report. That is why I rise to expand on the question and hopefully to get specific information, not baffleleg or platitudes signifying promises but no commitment from the government.

I must say that in the field of regulations and reform, the enemy is not the government nor those with ministerial responsibilities, not the Liberals, Progressive Conservatives or the NDP, but the bureaucratic system itself, the mandarins with the power to delay, the bureaucrats with the ability to mislead and persuade otherwise and a cobwebbed, built-in inertia that frustrates all members of Parliament.

My question is in relation to the recommendations in the report dealing with a special parliamentary committee to oversee the work of reform in the regulatory process. Recommendations Nos. 18 and 19 read as follows:

We recommend that a special committee on government regulation be established to function until required parliamentary reforms are implemented. We recommend that the special committee on government regulation monitor the government's process in implementing regulatory reform and oversee the regulatory activities and processes of federal departments and agencies.