seems to me that, unless I have much more information, that covers the point raised by the hon. member.

Mr. Bosley: Madam Speaker, it is stunning that the Minister of Finance simply does not understand that, to be successful, new businesses will not generate income in their first three to five years against which to write off interest.

REQUEST THAT IMPLEMENTATION DATE BE CHANGED

Mr. John Bosley (Don Valley West): Madam Speaker, if the minister is not prepared to consider reversing his position on this issue, as he did, with some help from us, on the MURB provisions earlier, with respect to the ability to deduct interest and the other tax incentives which have led Canadians to invest in Canada, will he at least consider grandfathering those investments so that Canadians who undertook risk in this country to try to put people back to work will not be forced to pay a tax penalty for trying to be good Canadians?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the point I have already made—which is still valid, despite the hon. member's comment—is that any excess of interest payment charges can be carried forward indefinitely and for deduction against investment income in future years. The case described by the hon. member is still covered by a feature that will permit those carrying charges to be carried forward against investment income in future years.

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THE ECONOMY

REQUEST THAT GOVERNMENT ACT TO ASSIST HOME OWNERS

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Finance. The minister made much of the phrase "fairness and equity" in his budget of November 12. Tomorrow, a large number of people will travel from all across Canada to Ottawa in order to express their concern about interest rates in particular, and the impact of high interest rates in general. Recognizing that there is a significant number of Canadians who signed mortgages at interest rate levels of 20, 21, and 22 per cent between the months of March and November of this year, will the minister take some action with the banks, or directly through government, to reduce that interest rate level to the current interest rate level that is available?

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, the hon. member will be pleased, as I am, to have observed the rather sharp drop in the bank rate recently and the drops in mortgage rates that have resulted. That is probably the best way to ensure that the burden on home owners will be reduced. I take note of the hon. member's question. It has a good deal of sense in it. Is there some way we can accommodate those persons who were in a sense caught in that period of very high interest rates? My understanding is that the financial institutions, particularly the banks, have attempted as much as possible to avoid entering into arrangements at those very high levels. I will certainly pursue that point to see whether something further can be done to ensure that those persons caught at very high levels might have their situation considered.

REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT

Mr. Ian Deans (Hamilton Mountain): Madam Speaker, I appreciate the sensible attitude being shown by the minister. I point out to him that, although it may be in the mind of the minister that the banks and financial institutions have attempted to help those people, I can assure him, having spoken with at least one family yesterday who are being asked to sign at 21¾ per cent today, that the banks and financial intitutions are not really doing all they could. I simply ask that the minister make a commitment that there will be some action taken directly by government to require the banks to bring mortgage interest rates into line with current levels, or that the government itself take action to relieve this terrible burden on so many families.

Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance): Madam Speaker, we have already announced a measure that, in my view, will prevent any family in this country from losing a home as a result of high interest rates. I am satisfied that that measure will have that effect. I know the hon. member wants to go further. I understand very clearly the point he is making because I discussed that very matter yesterday and attempted to determine to what extent individuals were caught in that high interest rate period and had entered into contracts. I will pursue the matter further. Certainly the case which the hon. member mentions in his question is one that ought to be looked at in the light of what is now a very substantial drop in interest rates. I intend to follow up that matter.

QUERY RESPECTING STABLE INTEREST RATE POLICY

Mrs. Margaret Mitchell (Vancouver East): Madam Speaker, my question is also directed to the Minister of Finance. I want to ask the minister what will be done for those workers who face the double jeopardy of high interest mortgage rates and lay-offs from their jobs. For example, what will the minister do for workers like Tony Brown, who is one of ten thousand IWA workers who have been laid off, who earns only about $930 a month with UIC payments and working every other week, and who tries to support a family of three? This man's mortgage will increase to $1,200 per month. Even with the mortgage deferral program he still would not have enough money to feed his family. I think the minister's previous statement really is not accurate.