

which do not come from us but from conclusion resulting from serious studies of the housing crisis.

The Prime Minister told us earlier that he was not aware of any housing crisis in Canada while the Minister of Transport (Mr. Heller) resigned because of the housing crisis which the Prime Minister refused to cope with and which the members of the cabinet did not want to be concerned about.

These statements are therefore contradictory. If the Prime Minister is convinced of what he says then I invite him to come along with me.

I shall take him to places all across Canada where there is at the moment a housing crisis.

The Prime Minister may very well say that we have built 200,000 houses, 197,000 houses, and so on, but the fact remains that in Canada we have 5,500,000 housing units while we have 5,700,000 families. This means that at the moment, we are short 200,000 housing units. Furthermore, there are 500,000 dwellings which are nothing more than sheds in which families, human beings, have to live.

We could tour the whole country, we could visit various parts of Montreal where we would see people who literally live in sheds that we would not consider suitable for dogs. Children are almost devoured by rats and the Prime Minister rises in the house to tell us very seriously that there is no housing crisis in Canada. When the Prime Minister makes such a statement, he acts like a joker. I could say something else, but I will leave it at that.

Mr. Speaker, there are 500,000 defective homes. For 10 years, there has been talk of replacing slums by decent homes for men, women and children. Families of 10 or 12 people have to live in three rooms. And that not in Egypt, China or in the constituency of Mont Royal, but in the cities of Montreal and Hull.

As a matter of fact, let us talk about the city of Hull, Mr. Speaker. One has only to look at the other side of the Ottawa river to see what people put up with over there. The hon. member for Hull (Mr. Isabelle) left the house when he heard about his city.

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister just said there is no housing crisis in Canada.

A thorough study on housing was made by the Canadian Conference on housing, which went through the report submitted by the Federal Task Force on Housing. Now, on

### Housing

January 30, the following was published by the Canadian Conference, and I quote:

• (3:20 p.m.)

[English]

The federal task force on housing report offers nothing concrete for the housing needs of the more than one million Canadian families with incomes below \$5,500—

That was well established by the Canadian Conference on Housing.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister has probably not seen that report.

I go on with the quotation:

[English]

—the first concern of government must be the people of low income whose housing needs are greatest.

[Translation]

The Prime Minister has taken no notice of this report.

If he has only read the report of the architects of the town of Mount Royal, in Montreal, he must have noticed that these people do not earn \$5,500 a year. Consequently, he could not learn that there was a housing problem. Yet, this problem does certainly exist whether he admits it or not.

Now, what were the recommendations of this commission? I have here a statement made after all these studies by Mr. Albert Gagnon, a former president of the Association of housing contractors of the district of Montreal. What did that man who knows about construction and housing say? He said, among other things, that an increase of 1 per cent in the interest rate on a small \$15,000 house during a period of 25 years would increase the payments by \$9 a month, that is an increase of \$108 a year.

Then, the construction of a family dwelling is practically impossible for the time being, because the worker who earns \$5,000 cannot buy his own house.

Mr. Speaker, with due respect to the constitution of the Prime Minister and the competence of the governments, what did Mr. Gagnon recommend? Here it is:

Immediate decrease of the interest rate for the loans granted by the C.M.H.C. to people whose income is \$10,000 or less a year;

Decrease of the interest rate. I read further:

Removal of the 11 per cent sales tax on the building materials that are used for housing;

A capital gains tax on profits from the sale of land in order to discourage speculation;