

Urban Affairs

years. In his speech as recorded at page 454 of *Hansard* the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby had this to say:

Mr. Speaker, the program announced by the government involves wrong spending at the wrong time and in a completely wrong area. The minister said in his statement that this is a 'demonstration program designed to foster projects that will find solutions to urban problems', and that it will also provide the foundation for Canada's participation in the 1976 United Nations Conference to be held, incidentally, in the city of Vancouver.

The minister said he wants this conference to be known as Habitat 2000.

I wondered whether he meant the year. Then, the hon. member continues:

I suggest in all seriousness that all this program is going to mean is \$100 million down the drain, . . .

The New Democratic Party says this is \$100 million down the drain and I agree with that statement 100 per cent.

. . . of no help to people in meeting housing requirements in Canada.

I endorse 100 per cent that statement by the New Democratic Party. I wish to refer to another statement, one made by a very knowledgeable member to whom I listen on many occasions with reference to housing. This is what the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Gilbert) had to say and I agree with his comments. This appears at page 820 of *Hansard* for March 25:

For months we have seen housing costs, including cost of land, mortgage interest rates and building materials, reach their highest peak and, in fact, become the highest costing component in the cost of living index across this country.

What has the Minister of State for Urban Affairs done, Mr. Speaker? He has done nothing. I looked at the Speech from the Throne but there was not one word about the housing problem in Canada.

Let me pause there for a few moments because of the words used by the hon. member for Broadview. Yesterday the minister spoke with great affection about the Speech from the Throne. It really did not say anything. The hon. member for Broadview continues:

There was not one mention of bringing forth legislation to deal with the housing problem. All he has done has been to make a statement last week with regard to an urban demonstration program, spending, as my hon. friend from Calgary North has said, \$100 million over a period of five years.

● (1540)

Then, he came to the great crunch. The NDP member made a statement which I endorse when he said:

All these measures are like giving a starving elephant a peanut.

My answer to that is: what a big elephant and what a small peanut!

The minister spoke with great affection about the Speech from the Throne. The Liberals are fond of the word "rhetoric". Yesterday, every one of them used the word "rhetoric" as if they had just found it. It must have been the first time they found it in the dictionary. I want to give you an example of real rhetoric. I call as my witness the Speech from the Throne. Believe me, Mr. Speaker, this is what it said. There is only one small paragraph in the Speech from the Throne in reference to housing.

An hon. Member: And it's about sewers.

[Mr. Woolliams.]

Mr. Woolliams: I agree with the hon. member, it is all about sewers. This program will mean \$100 million down the sewer, down the drain. This is what the Speech from the Throne said. They are tremendous words. It is true rhetoric, and it reads as follows:

Provision of adequate shelter at reasonable prices in a satisfactory neighbourhood environment has been a continuing concern of the government,—

The people of Canada are not concerned about the concern of the government; they are concerned about action, about implementation of the program of the government. We know the government is sorry; we know they love power, and we know that their sympathy runs to the degree of power they want, and they want a whole lot of power. We know all that. The paragraph goes on:

—and levels of funding to meet this objective are being reviewed.

Do you know, Mr. Speaker, what it is costing the Canadian people to review them? It is costing \$100 million, \$55,000 every day for five years for a review. The government says that they wish to defend the taxpayers of Canada with such a program. The ministers asked why we did not listen to the Speech from the Throne. The paragraph goes on to read:

Substantial assistance to rural and native housing programs will also be proposed.

We had a statement on that and we found it to be another lot of rhetoric.

The sewage assistance program will be revised—

Does that mean that sewers will be made larger, smaller or will be extended?

—to make it more effective as a means to increase the supply of serviced land. The government will introduce measures to increase the protection available to consumers in the housing market.

It did not take me very long to sum that up. That is what the minister spoke about. It was all in the Speech from the Throne. Every day the cost of housing goes up. I can bring to your attention every day, as someone else in the House did, the cost of housing in some cities which has gone up by 30 per cent. Yesterday I spoke about a house which eight years ago cost \$25,000 and now costs \$85,000. Serviced land continues to increase in price. Yet, as the NDP said, we are pouring \$100 million down the drain. That is why we repudiate the government and we repudiate this plan as being totally diversionary. It is a tactic on the part of the government to cover up something for which they have no solution, that is, galloping inflation. The necessities of men and women in Canada today have become luxuries, and this is caused by lack of control of domestic inflation. One of the top priorities should be to look after the essentials of the average man in Canada. Those essentials have now become luxuries.

Analysing what was said in the Speech from the Throne, one finds that the government has no solution for the national housing crisis and finds no way to ease the burden of the purchaser, of the average person on a small or fixed income. As you watch this government day by day, you find that it is paralyzed and unable to do anything; it is bankrupt of ideas. Do I need to say any more except to ask every member of the House to support this motion? I ask that every member of the House, wherever he may sit, to search his own conscience and to condemn