

Mortgage Tax Credit

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Chairman, I am grateful that the proceedings of the House of Commons are now carried coast to coast on television, because I think it is instructive that Canadians should have the opportunity to watch their parliamentarians in action and to make a judgment as to the behaviour of members of the government and members of the opposition, and then ask themselves whether the opposition is being responsible in this instance. What we have seen in the course of the last several days has been a concerted attempt by the opposition to deprive millions of Canadians of a badly needed tax break and to deprive millions of young Canadians of the only opportunity they may have to own homes, particularly if they lose this tax break and this opportunity to make housing in Canada affordable.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Beatty: Day after day after day in this House we have seen every single parliamentary manoeuvre possible undertaken by this opposition. If they could not defeat the bill then they would drag it out and attempt to obstruct, to do everything possible to deny Canadians of that opportunity.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Question.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Chairman, is it not curious that as soon as members of the government begin to defend this bill which will give a tax break to Canadians, suddenly the opposition do not want to hear us? Suddenly they want silence in this House.

An hon. Member: We do not want silence, we want the question.

Mr. Beatty: Mr. Chairman, clearly the job of the opposition is first of all to convince their own members of their case. The hon. member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry was incapable of convincing three of his own members—

Mr. Lalonde: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman, surely the hon. minister knows it is not the opposition that has closed the debate on this subject, but this government.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Beatty: I am delighted, Mr. Chairman, that the former minister recognizes that members of this House should have the opportunity to debate the proposition that has been put forward by his colleague, the hon. member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry. I intend to avail myself of that opportunity despite the shouts from the other side.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Beatty: What the hon. member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry has conspicuously failed to do is convince three of his own colleagues that the case he was putting to deprive Canadians of this tax break could be justified. Three of them stood up and voted against him. Yet what we find today is speech after speech after speech by members of the official opposition who

[Mr. Harquail.]

claim that somehow Canadians can be convinced of something that hon. members over there could not convince their own colleagues of. They are suggesting that somehow Canadians should be deprived of this right and opportunity to spend their tax dollars as they see fit.

The Chairman: Order, please. I am ready to recognize the hon. member on a point of order, but I hope it is a point of order this time and not just an argument.

Mr. Harquail: Yes, Mr. Chairman, it certainly is a point of order, and it has to do with the delaying tactics of the government in this place. The minister used the figure three; he has delayed the vote three times this afternoon in less than ten minutes.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Brisco: On the same point of order, Mr. Chairman—

Some hon. Members: Order, order.

Mr. Brisco: Mr. Chairman, I would ask if this is Parliament or is it a zoo? Because those are the animals over there, and I am damned well ashamed of them. If they do not know how to behave in Parliament, then I suggest they go back to their constituents and ask them what they think about their performance in this House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

An hon. Member: Look at the Gallup poll.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Chairman: Order, please.

An hon. Member: Go back to the zoo.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

The Chairman: Order, please.

An hon. Member: Withdraw.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Chairman: Order, please. Hon. members will agree with me that such exchanges are not improving the standard of our deliberations. I think these false points of order should be limited as much as possible. I would like to hear what the minister is trying to say.

Mr. Beatty: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for your courtesy. My comments will, indeed, be brief.

[*Translation*]

The Chairman: The hon. member for Madawaska-Victoria on a question of privilege.

Mr. Corbin: Mr. Chairman, our rules state that the language used in the House of Commons must remain within