

● (9:00 p.m.)

**Mr. Latulippe:** Mr. Speaker, I was saying that we are convinced that the government did not attain its lafty ideal through its housing policy.

The policy of individual freedom and of equal opportunity is still very far from the social justice advocated in the "just society" slogan, considering the number of slums where too many Canadians live.

The 12 per cent tax on building materials, the 8 per cent interest rate on capital loans, the 8 per cent tax on material purchases in the province of Quebec, the 10 or 12 per cent interest on bank loans for the construction of houses, all those things further contribute to raise the cost of materials and services that the people and the municipalities must pay.

By increasing taxes and interest rates, the government contributes to raise the price of real estate and construction, so that an individual can no longer afford to own his home.

Under our present economic system, the individual is made to bow to the whims and demands of money-lenders, instead of the economy adjusting to his needs and those of his family. If money-lenders decide to build sky-scrapers so that their investment will yield a higher interest, families are packed together in superimposed bird-cages and charged prohibitive rents, considering the low income of the citizens.

Our just society, by its taxes and its housing policy, deprives the individual of his right to ownership. Can it be repeated too often? Only those with a high income can become home owners. Low wage-earners will always be tenants from generation to generation.

But interest on large investments keeps increasing, both in private and public enterprise. The value of a bond bearing a 10 per cent interest doubles in seven years, quadruples in 14 years, multiplies itself eight times in 21 years. And this is how capital controls the whole economic life of the nation, while wage-earners live from hand to mouth, without being able to make both ends meet.

In order to realize the present state of our economy let us consider this aspect of private ownership of individual and family housing, and we will find that the situation is impossible, unfair, unacceptable, for the present as well as for the future.

What is the use of having a Minister of Urban Affairs and Housing, as mentioned in the Speech from the Throne, if we make ownership more and more difficult, if we prevent individuals from becoming property owners?

How is it, Mr. Speaker, that so many people could find more suitable and cheaper houses in all our towns and villages hardly fifty years ago? Is this situation merely due to chance? Is there no one responsible? And if someone is responsible, are we to blame? Is it the passenger or the driver who is responsible for an accident?

**Mr. Gaétan-J. Serré (Nickel Belt):** Mr. Speaker, following the unfortunate events taking place in our country

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these days, it is with deep emotion and great anxiety as to what the future holds for us that I take the floor in the House, the seat of democracy cherished by all worthy Canadians.

In my own name and on behalf of all my fellow citizens of Nickel Belt, I hasten to express my most sincere sympathy to Pierre Laporte's family, to all his colleagues in the National Assembly, to the Prime Minister and all government officials. I wish them the courage required to meet the challenge now facing us.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that we shall soon hear that Mr. Cross has been safely released.

The events of the last few days have consequences that go far beyond the captivity of Mr. Cross and the assassination of Mr. Laporte. I hope that thanks to the indomitable courage shown by our Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and to the co-operation of governments at all levels as well as of every Canadian citizen, it will be possible to restore order and to ensure the security of all Canadians.

[English]

I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, we are presently faced with the worst crisis in Canadian history. Anyone who believes the present situation can be solved by arguments about a possible threat to our civil liberties is fooling himself. There is no room at this time for opportunism and party politics such as the leader of the New Democratic Party and some of his hon. friends in that party have shown in the last few days. The political opportunism and lack of sincerity displayed by the NDP will never be forgotten by the Canadian people.

**Some hon. Members:** Order.

**Mr. Nystrom:** On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I think the hon. member is imputing motives, and that is contrary to our rules. I, for one, can say I was not insincere in my stand. I was very sincere as, I am sure, were other members of my party. I would ask the hon. member to withdraw his last remark.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** I must tell the House that I was busy talking to somebody here so I did not follow the last part of the hon. member's remarks. It is difficult, therefore, for me at this time to judge the remarks about which the hon. member is complaining. But if that part of the hon. member's observations were comments about a vote in the House of Commons, I might take the opportunity to read again the last sentence of Standing Order 35, which states as follows:

No member may reflect upon any vote of the House except for the purpose of moving that such vote be rescinded.

This is the second time today I have had to read the Standing Order and I hope hon. members will keep it in mind in order that the Chair may not be confronted with points of order similar to those which have been raised earlier.

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel)]