

*Mortgage Tax Credit*

**Mr. Crosbie:** They are paying attention now because they think there is something racy coming.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Crosbie:** These credits will be available for 1959—

**An hon. Member:** 1959?

**Mr. Crosbie:** —should this bill pass the House before Christmas. This is November 19?

**Mr. Baker (Nepean-Carleton):** It is November 19.

**Mr. Crosbie:** November 19 is a month and two days before December 21. There is no reasons why members in this House cannot debate and discuss every angle to this legislation and have it passed by December 21.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Crosbie:** As a matter of fact, two or three days of debate will ventilate all the issues in this bill and then in the committee of the whole, so within a week, a week will be very, very reasonable for us to consider this bill. We ask for co-operation. We know we are going to get it because we know the hon. gentlemen are not going to deprive the Canadian people of a \$575 million Christmas present.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**An hon. Member:** What about the byelection results?

**Mr. Crosbie:** The NDP had another sweep in Newfoundland.

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Crosbie:** It is their usual Newfoundland sweep. They never elected a member in the last provincial election, and now they are going to sweep her. They are a contagion that is now held in one part of the country.

When we come to interest rates, I just want to point out to the House that between February, 1978, and May of 1979 the bank rate in Canada went up 3.75 per cent. That is a period when the Liberal government was in office here in Ottawa. I repeat, 3.75 per cent the interest rate went up, the central bank rate and the prime bank rate. Unfortunately, because of the condition in which they left our economy, in the last six months the interest rates have gone up the same, that is, 3.75 per cent. But we are trying to do something about that increased interest rate. We are trying to protect and help the home owners of Canada against the results of the 3.75 per cent increase that has occurred since we have been here, as a result of no fault of our own. It is the result of the economic condition in which we were left.

● (2040)

Hon. gentlemen opposite were here for the year and a half that interest rates went up 3¾ per cent, and did nothing except talk when they got to the election about some other kind of

[Mr. Crosbie.]

scheme they were going to introduce. I hope that none of them will speak, that they will pass this in silence, that they will be so ashamed at their lack of action when they were in power that they will just let this go through without any talk.

A mortgage of \$50,000 at 10 per cent interest would cost \$5,000 in a year. A \$50,000 mortgage at 10 per cent will give the maximum relief that I described earlier.

**An hon. Member:** What about 14¾ per cent?

**Mr. Crosbie:** They are so eager in their juvenile way to call out what about 14¾ per cent. I say it is a great pity about 14¾ per cent. It should not be a subject for partisan badinage that we are trying to do something about it. A \$40,000 mortgage at 12½ per cent interest—I want the mathematicians in the corner to listen because they hate spending money when it does not suit them where it is spent—comes to \$5,000. A \$36,000 mortgage at 14 per cent interest is \$5,060 a year which will give you the maximum deduction.

A \$34,000 mortgage at 15 per cent interest, God forbid, would give you \$5,100 in interest costs and you would get the maximum deduction. For the maximum deductions we are not talking here about \$100,000 mortgages or \$75,000 mortgages. We are talking about mortgages from \$50,000 down to \$34,000 to get the maximum at today's interest rates. That is another reason why I trust this will be rushed through the House. Does the public support this plan?

**Some hon. Members:** No.

**Mr. Crosbie:** If we are to believe hon. gentlemen opposite, the public is directly against us, the public does not want it, the public hates it. Why is it then that the Gallup poll, Mr. Speaker, if you don't mind me holding this up, shows 76 per cent support mortgage proposals? These are the gentlemen who used to go by the Gallup polls. For the last couple of years with every Gallup poll they practically beat themselves out running to see what the Gallup poll was saying. Despite the Gallup poll they got the poll right where they didn't expect it. Here is the question:

Prime Minister Clark and the Conservative government in Ottawa have reaffirmed their pre-election promise to allow mortgage costs and property taxes—up to a certain maximum limit—as deductible expenses for income tax purposes. What is your opinion? Would you approve or disapprove of this?

Approve, 76 per cent, disapprove, 13 per cent, don't know, 11 per cent.

If we add up the don't knows and disapprove, they are all over there and they represent 24 per cent of the Canadian people. We are here representing 76 per cent who have approved this plan. We say to hon. gentlemen and ladies opposite, let's get on to the hustings again and thrash this matter out and let the people decide what they want in this matter.

I referred earlier to the article by Mr. David Greenspan, a Toronto lawyer. I am informed he is a Liberal. Nevertheless, he is a sensible man, and one of the few. He is the author of "Down to the Earth". You might say what is "Down to the Earth"? "Down to the Earth" was a report paid for by the Liberal government of Canada when it was in power, a