

business as we know them today will disappear and we will fall entirely under the control of the large corporations.

Mr. Sid Parker (Kootenay East-Revelstoke): Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to speak on this amendment. I commend my colleague, the hon. member for Broadview-Greenwood (Mr. Rae), for presenting it. I have noticed this afternoon how quiet the members of the Conservative party and the Liberal party have been on this amendment. This amendment could bring stimulus to the housing industry, which would help every Canadian. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation recently took a survey in my riding, and they found that in almost every community there was a .0 vacancy rate. The highest vacancy rate they could find was .05.

If this kind of proposal were put in the Bank Act, communities or groups would be allowed to get together to bring about land assemblies, and the average worker would be allowed through such a program to build housing which would meet the needs of the people.

Mr. Blenkarn: Get off it.

Mr. Parker: I was involved in such a program, and I have seen what can be done. I saw a small community with backing from the federal government, the provincial government and the municipal government, put forward 25 acres of land and put in the services. The lots were sold at cost. The individuals involved were able to go to the banks and borrow money. Many of them began building their own homes with their own hands. Others hired contractors. The project, which occurred in the early seventies, stimulated housing in a way such a provision in the Bank Act would stimulate the industry.

I would like to speak about the problems of the small businessman. Many times on the campaign trail I heard the Conservative candidate or the Liberal candidate say that they were the champions of the small businessmen. Several small businessmen have come to me with problems. I can think of one group which operates a small tie mill. They were begging for contracts from CP Rail. These businessmen could not get financing because they did not have the contracts. But CP Rail is going across the line into Washington to buy thousands and thousands of railway ties. I am talking about small industries run by three or four people. In this case it was a small mill which hoped to make a business out of small scrub timber by making railway ties for the railways. If the Bank Act were amended to help small businessmen, we would see many such operations begin.

I have been in larger communities where there are the large shopping malls which have their own means of financing, gathering all of their loot together to squeeze out the small businessman who is unable to get a loan from a bank. If this small businessman is able to get a loan, the interest rates are so high he is unable to sell his goods or maintain an inventory, and he soon goes into bankruptcy. Every small businessman knows what I am talking about.

Crown Corporations

There is also the tourist industry. Businessmen in my riding promote winter skiing in particular. Once again interest rates will be a deciding factor in whether the business will be a viable operation or whether it will go into bankruptcy.

The other day a woman came to me with her problem. She was trying to develop a small business, but because the banks would not provide her with the capital, she was forced to go to the federal development fund. She faces the possibility of losing her business in December. As a result, I tried to determine how many more small businessmen were finding themselves in this kind of trap. I found many such businessmen in my own community.

● (1700)

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert)—Public Service—Translators' dispute—State of negotiations; the hon. member for Winnipeg-Assiniboine (Mr. McKenzie)—Veterans Affairs—Request for increase in war veterans allowance and disability pensions; the hon. member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly)—Consumer Affairs—Justification for certain department stores to increase finance charges.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely, notices of motions.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

[English]

CROWN CORPORATIONS

SUGGESTION LEGISLATION NECESSARY TO INCREASE CONTROL AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Hon. Perrin Beatty (Wellington-Dufferin-Simcoe) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of introducing legislation to increase control and accountability of Crown corporations such as the provisions of Bill C-27, an act respecting Crown corporations and matters relating or incidental thereto, which was introduced in the First Session of the Thirty-first Parliament.

He said: Mr. Speaker, on April 30 I put down this motion because I felt it was a matter of great necessity in this country that action be taken in the very near future to bring an appropriate regime of accountability and control to the myriad of Crown corporations for which the federal government has responsibility. I am delighted that the president of the Treas-