

Mortgage Tax Credit

audacity to threaten the members of this House with the idea of an early election if the House of Commons does not pass this bill before Christmas. In my opinion, this is despicable behaviour on the part of someone who should have some authority and be a bit more serious about his duties as Minister of Finance.

An hon. Member: It is arrogance!

Mr. Ouellet: One of my colleagues says that it is arrogance. It certainly shows arrogance on the part of a government which has just received a mandate from the Canadian voters and which is now threatening to hold another election if the members of Parliament who were democratically elected go on too long or take too much time to express their views on this bill. Mr. Speaker, it is obvious that this government did not receive an absolute majority at the last election and has no right to treat us in so cavalier a manner by threatening us and the Canadian population with the idea of holding another election if this badly designed, badly planned and useless little bill is not accepted by the Liberal opposition, the New Democratic opposition, and even the Social Credit opposition, since a few of its members have rightly noted the serious weaknesses of this bill.

I would therefore say to the Minister of Finance that he would be much better to review his position and recognize that the plan announced by his leader shortly before the election was not a good idea. Of course, the promises by the Prime Minister before the election have been abandoned and this plan has been considerably amended, but even though it has been amended, Bill C-20 is still extremely shaky and unfair to too many Canadians for us to accept it, as the official opposition in this House, without pointing out its weaknesses and especially without asking this government to make many other amendments. In fact, we believe that this bill does not meet the objective, perhaps quite legitimate, of the government to promote home ownership. On the contrary, because of the means suggested by the government, it only creates more difficulties and more distortions in the Canadian housing market and considerably hinders the freedom of action of the Minister of Finance for preparing the next budget he is expected to table in December.

● (1700)

It is evident to me that this legislation is quite incomplete. Indeed, it is aimed at the privileged few, those who are rich enough to own property, the last ones who should be helped under these circumstances.

I see it is five o'clock. I shall resume my comments at the next opportunity because I would like to put forward a much better alternative to this government measure.

[Mr. Ouellet.]

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being five o'clock, 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 York South-Weston (Mrs. Appolloni)—Health and Welfare—Vivisection of human foetuses; the hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert)—Agriculture—Inquiry whether minister received representations from Quebec for reduction in poultry imports; the hon. member for Shefford (Mr. Lapierre)—External Affairs—Aid in construction of frozen fish plants in Senegal—Government position.

The House will now proceed to the consideration of private members' business as listed on today's order paper, namely notices of motions (papers), private bills and public bills.

Mr. David Kilgour (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if we could have unanimous consent to proceed with Bill C-202, in the name of the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Wenman).

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to proceed with Bill C-202, in the name of the hon. member for Fraser Valley West, and that order No. 1, Bill C-201, be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BILLS

[English]

STATISTICS ACT

AMENDMENT TO REMOVE PENALTY FOR REFUSAL TO PROVIDE INFORMATION

Mr. Bob Wenman (Fraser Valley West) moved that Bill C-202, to amend the Statistics Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in the struggle to create more open government which recognizes that public information belongs to the public, it is also important to limit public information gathering that employs compulsive and coercive methods in acquiring non-criminal information from private citizens. Surely an open society also implies voluntarism. Surely a free society neither implies, nor practices, compulsion and coercion toward its individual parts.