

*Mortgage Financing Bill*

experience. They do not have to use outside toilets night and day, week after week, in all sorts of weather.

● (2130)

**Mr. Alexander:** Neither do you.

**Mr. Howard:** No, I do not have to; that is right. I was going to issue an invitation to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Basford), so I might as well do it now and include the hon. member for Hamilton West. I will gladly make the arrangements for both of those hon. gentlemen to come with me to La Loche in northern Saskatchewan, to Pine House or to my own constituency, Telegraph Creek or Cassiar. They should bring their long underwear—I do not care what brand—and the barest necessities and live with a family in those northern regions for a week this winter. Maybe they would come back to this House with a better understanding of what housing is. You bet I say to the hon. member for Hamilton West, “I don’t have to”—but I know what it is like and I do not want to do it again.

**Mr. Alexander:** You are not alone, so don’t get carried away.

**Mr. Howard:** I would say to the hon. member for Hamilton West, who likes to interrupt, that he would do well to go to Nova Scotia where a number of people are living at the bottom of the economic income level as well. He would recognize them and they would recognize him. If he did that and lived with those people for a week in the conditions they have to live under, and on their income, perhaps he would come back to this House with a better appreciation of what housing means.

**Mr. Alexander:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I have listened to the hon. member and I feel he is overstepping his bounds. I think this should be more or less a question of privilege. If the hon. member had guts enough to come out and say what he intended to say, then perhaps I would not have stood up. But I think the hon. member has attempted to imply that there are a number of blacks in Nova Scotia who happen to be living in such circumstances and there may be need for recognition of their plight. Surely we all know that these circumstances need to be dealt with regardless of a person’s race, creed or colour.

**Mr. Basford:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Alexander:** I think all of us in this House are very much aware of the circumstances, whether people are black or white. What I resent is the cheap NDP way that the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) is known for in terms of trying to embarrass me. I do not appreciate that.

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

**Mr. Alexander:** I just want to say, Mr. Speaker, that if he wants to bandy words with the hon. member for Hamilton West he should stand up like a man and tell me what he is thinking, instead of trying to be devious in the way he presents the subject. I know what he is talking about, and as far as I am concerned he is irresponsible. Mr. Speaker, that is the only point I wanted to make.

[Mr. Howard.]

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

**Mr. Howard:** I well appreciate the sensitivity of the hon. member, Mr. Speaker, because he knows what he is talking about in this regard.

**Mr. Alexander:** And you don’t.

**Mr. Howard:** I was saying that Nova Scotia was the place where a gentleman by the name of Robert Stanfield at one time was premier.

**An hon. Member:** Oh, don’t give us that.

**Mr. Howard:** I was not referring particularly to black people. I am going to tell the hon. member this, through you, Mr. Speaker—if I want to talk about black people and their condition of poverty, I will do it directly.

**Mr. Alexander:** Then do it.

**Mr. Howard:** I have never shied away from that responsibility, just the same as I do not enjoy talking about the economic plight of native people, but it is necessary to talk about it. If the hon. member for Hamilton West wants to discuss the plight of the black people in light of this bill and the effect it will have on them, he has all my support to improve housing conditions for that group of people or any group of people.

**Mr. Alexander:** Get back to your original theme; you have lost it.

**Mr. Howard:** I think it ill behooves the hon. member for Hamilton West to stand up and exhibit that kind of sensitivity and level charges against me.

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

**Mr. Howard:** I have never invited them. The fact is that he is a Conservative and the Conservatives have a terrible history when it comes to dealing with the plight of people in terrible circumstances.

**An hon. Member:** That is not true.

**Mr. Howard:** The hon. member for Hamilton West or anybody else in the Conservative party should not attempt to cover that up.

**Mr. Reilly:** A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Marshall:** A point of order, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Fraser:** Mr. Speaker, on a point of order.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Fraser) rises on a point of order.

**Mr. Fraser:** Mr. Speaker, I have listened to something in the last few minutes that, as a new member, I never thought I would have to listen to. I want to dissociate myself and other members from British Columbia from the remarks of the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard).

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