

dollars. This would have to be paid for. Who would pay for the three or four billion dollars? It would be the general taxpayer. It would be the revenues from the renters in my constituency that would bankroll an extremely unfair mortgage tax scheme, and that would benefit only those at the upper end of the income scales.

The member for Burlington (Mr. Kempling) is leaving the chamber because he cannot face the music. The hon. member was part of that diabolical scheme that, luckily enough, did not see the light of day. The Conservatives are now ridiculing us. It was the Tories who demonstrated their feelings for renters. They care for renters in the same way as they care for everyone: looking after the privileged first and the poor and ordinary Canadians last.

What about their brethren in the province of Ontario who are about to lift the lid on rent controls? They would do so in one callous, uncharitable move. This has been predicted. They are trying to skate around it and not break their election promises. However, they will lift the lid on rent controls. Thousands of people in this country, in our province in particular and in metropolitan Toronto, and perhaps even hundreds in my constituency in York East, will be forced into the street. This is the Conservative philosophy. It does not matter whether one is a provincial or federal Tory. The Conservative philosophy is at least consistent, and that is, "to hell with the weak guy, let him fend for himself and we will look after number one, we will look after the tough people, the strong people".

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

**Mr. Collenette:** That is why they are now objecting. How about their attitude towards the MURB program? In the last few days hon. members have been complaining about the program. Yesterday the hon. member for St. John's East wept his river of Newfoundland tears and complained bitterly about the MURB program. It has to be remembered that the MURB program has been used by many as an artful tax dodge to erect luxury condominiums in such places as Victoria, Vancouver, Toronto and Ottawa. It is this kind of attitude that is denuding metropolitan Toronto of decent, affordable housing for its citizens. It is forcing the average people of metropolitan Toronto to go out to the suburbs to take what is left over, while all the white painters, all the artsy crowd, all those with money in the bank, all those who can write off everything in their incomes move back downtown into condominiums that cost between \$150,000 and \$400,000 for a two bedroom unit in a constituency like Rosedale. What does the hon. member for Rosedale (Mr. Crombie) have to say about that? Where has he been in the last couple of days? The hon. member was not present in the House when the budget was introduced. Do you know why he was not here, Mr. Speaker? He could not stomach what the hon. member for St. John's East said about the MURB program. The hon. member knows what these tax dodgers will do. They will drive out affordable accommodation in ridings like his. The member for Spadina (Mr. Heap) is present in the House and is unresponsive in this matter. The

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hon. member knows that I am speaking the truth with regard to this matter.

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

**Mr. Collenette:** I should like to tell hon. members more and I am getting wound up. However, I do not want to deny members their dinner period.

Tory economics is Reaganomics, Thatcher economics. We have made tough decisions with regard to this budget, but we have kept the basic social programs, the underpinning of the economic system in this country, intact in tough times. I lament the laying off of people at Massey-Ferguson Industries Limited. But they will be protected because there will be unemployment insurance. Their pensions are indexed, their family benefits are indexed. These are Liberal programs. Those are Liberal economics.

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

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Order, please. It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock this evening.

At 6 p.m. the House took recess.

### AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** Order, please. When the House rose at six o'clock, the hon. member for York East (Mr. Collenette) had the floor. I presume he has finished his remarks, so in his absence I will recognize the hon. member for York-Peel (Mr. Stevens).

**Hon. Sinclair Stevens (York-Peel):** Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak on the budget I do so with very mixed feelings. Certainly I have had an opportunity to hear the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) in his budgetary address to the House. I heard certain ministers add further governmental comment to the budget. I should like to try in a fairly neutral fashion to put the budget into proper perspective. I say that because I was rather startled today to hear the Secretary of State (Mr. Regan) say that he felt he should compliment the Minister of Finance on the budget. Presumably it is not just the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Cosgrove) who did not know what was going into the budget up until the time it was virtually delivered. But obviously the Secretary of State, in order to make that comment in the House, has not even listened and certainly has not read what is in the budget. How anyone could possibly say with a straight face, especially someone from the province of Nova Scotia, that he wanted to compliment the Minister of Finance on the budget, I find hard to understand.

The hon. member for York East (Mr. Collenette) waxed eloquent at the end of his remarks about the evils of MURBs