

see that the proposal is interesting enough for him. Now, I will quote from issue No. 39 of the Minutes of Proceedings of the special joint committee of the Senate and of the House of Commons on consumer credit which had been appointed to inquire into poverty in Canada. This was recorded during its meeting of Tuesday March 21, 1967. I quote from page 3137 which states:

BRIEF SUBMITTED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON CONSUMERS CREDIT (PRICES) BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC COURSES OF SAINT-FRANÇOIS-XAVIER UNIVERSITY SYDNEY, N.S.

Mr. Chairman:

My name is Duncan MacIntyre and I represent the Department of Public Courses of the Saint-François-Xavier University of Sydney, N.S.

I have the honour of submitting this brief on behalf of the Department of Public Courses of the Saint-François-Xavier University and in the name of low income families of the eastern counties of this province.

The problem of housing in Nova Scotia

Generally speaking, Nova Scotia is confronted with the same problem as the other Canadian provinces. Statistics show that:

One fifth of our houses accommodate an excessive number of people and are without running water, bath and shower;

More than one fifth of our houses are deprived of water-flushed lavatories and we have twice as many dilapidated houses as the national average.

Finally, the author of the brief has this to say:

We have endeavoured to show that neither the private sector nor the governments, whether through the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation or the Nova Scotia Housing Commission, can meet adequately the needs of our many poor families. We have also endeavoured to show that the dwellings subsidized by the federal and provincial governments cannot solve the problem once and for all, especially at the financial level.

In the light of this brief that was prepared by a representative of the University of Nova Scotia, one can realize what the housing situation is in Nova Scotia.

Those accepting to live in such conditions must really be peace-loving people. And I am sincere when I say that in the province of Quebec, people would not have tolerated a similar situation for so long. In the province of Quebec, given such circumstances, everything would have blown up long ago. However, the people of Nova Scotia are peace-loving. To wit, they put up for fifteen years with the Leader of the Opposition as prime minister. While for people to be peace-loving is a commendable trait, nevertheless I believe that a political leader should behave in a rather energetic manner. This one left his province half built and still dilapidated after fifteen years of administration. Thereby he simply proved that he was retreating and had misgivings about the results of his proposed reforms.

Should he accept that his rent be paid by this country, the Leader of the Opposition will but deserve the additional name of "deserter" besides those already applied to him.

The Standing Orders stipulate that an opposition member does not have the privilege of introducing a measure involving the expense of public funds. In this case, I did not find any provision that would prevent the

Prime Minister's Residence Act

hon. leader of the opposition from asking that the bill before us be withdrawn.

On the other hand, if the leader of the opposition persists in seeking cover from the inconvenients of the capitalist system—that is scarce and high-priced living accommodation—and taking advantage of the proposals contained in the bill, I shall be obliged to move an amendment at the committee stage.

In fact, if the country is financially capable of paying the rent of its Prime Minister, who will be making \$53,000 a year, and capable of paying the rent of the leader of the official opposition, I feel that same country, with all the wealth we know it has, should pay the school and municipal taxes of all Canadian family heads who own a small house and earn less than \$5,000 a year.

If we can spare the Prime Minister his rent when he earns \$1,000 a week, the government should see to it that a system is set up whereby help could be given, where municipal and school taxes are concerned, to all those Canadians who already own a small house and make less than \$5,000 annually.

I also believe it would be in order to take advantage of the generosity offered by the bill to claim reimbursement by the government of the annual rent of all heads of Canadian families earning less than \$5,000.

I want to join the previous speaker in commending the Speaker of the House, whom I hold to be a perfect individual who carries out his duties very well. I know the Speaker's job is unrewarding and so demanding as to require the incumbent's fulltime attention. Whether this is realized or not, I am sure the Speaker does not have the time required to look after his constituents. I therefore propose that the office of Speaker become permanent as it is second in importance to no other in the country, in my opinion.

As a Créditiste, and in favour of security for all Canadians, I feel it to be in order also to point out that the present bill, dealing only with the welfare of leaders, is inadequate. As I have mentioned before, I intend coming back to that matter at another stage of the bill. That is all I have to say at this time Mr. Speaker.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Mr. Godin: On division.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Richard): Carried, on division.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Procedure and Organization.