

Mr. Anderson: I hope that I am not misinformed about that amount. It should be a matter of top priority in the discussions between the National Indian Brotherhood and the department. I hope, as do other hon. members, that as time goes by the amounts of money so allocated will be increased on a rational basis. The concerns of the band must be taken into consideration for they know best how the money should be used.

Hon. members must remember that we are considering rural as well as native housing programs, and rightly so. I am concerned particularly about people living in small communities such as Tofino, Ucluelet and other, similar communities who in my view face difficulties as great as those faced by people living on reserves. Because small communities are isolated, building materials are costly and therefore houses are more costly. The supply of money being limited, and banks and lending institutions preferring to lend money for housing in urban centres or larger communities, our native peoples and those living in smaller, isolated communities who also deserve decent amenities and decent housing find it difficult to obtain money.

Since I am a member of the Standing Committee on Indian Affairs and Northern Development I am particularly interested in matters concerning rural and native housing. Many Indian people live in the area I represent. However, some of the questions raised in this debate, I honestly feel, are outside the scope of parliament. After all, you are dealing with peoples' attitudes and their priorities in life. Not all people feel as members of this House do about property. The philosophy of some people is not having as their major goal in life a grand home, a swimming pool, and so on. We cannot impose our culture on other people. The object and purpose of government is to help those who wish to help themselves.

● (1720)

I trust that when the meetings between Indian Affairs and the National Indian Brotherhood are completed, the policy that is announced will be one of many policies for native people in which they have had a direct input. I hope that it will be a policy that will suit them, and not necessarily the bureaucrats in any government department who may have had input into the process. If we can apply that concept not only to native housing but to developing industry on reserves, whatever the native people feel they can do best in their area, giving the native people the opportunity to make the majority of the decisions, we will have come a long way in solving the native problem.

It has always been my contention that we have got into trouble by not listening to the native people, but to our own people who thought they had the best interests of the native people at heart. Much of the confrontation has been of frustrated people having imposed upon them a style and culture which did not suit them, philosophies they could not assess. I trust that in this enlightened age native people will have the opportunity to make their own decisions with regard to housing, industry, jobs, where they live, whether on or off reserves. What it finally comes down to is that each individual is

Housing

responsible for his or her actions. The role of government should be a helping one, not one that directs them in one or two channels. It should help them, but not be their direct master and put them into areas in which they do not wish to be.

I wish to thank the Indian Affairs critic of the official opposition for placing this subject before the House. I am sure it will be discussed in the standing committee on several occasions. The hon. member should be commended for his humanity and concern for the native people. I appreciate the opportunity of participating in this debate.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

Mr. Deputy Speaker: 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 Vancouver-Kingsway (Mrs. Holt)—Royal Canadian Mounted Police—Reduction in pension of Constable Hale—Government action to rectify; the hon. member for Edmonton Centre (Mr. Paproski)—National Defence—Possible change in location of airborne regiment—Government position; the hon. member for Saskatoon-Biggar (Mr. Hnatyshyn)—Energy—Request for report on proposal to establish uranium refinery in Saskatchewan.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—ALLEGED INADEQUACY OF
GOVERNMENT POLICIES RESPECTING HOUSING

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Holmes:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government's policies with respect to urban and rural native housing are totally inadequate.

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): Mr. Speaker, when I decided to speak on the motion this afternoon I fully intended to make a reasoned and dispassionate address concerning the contents of this motion. I was very favourably impressed by the lead-off speaker of the Conservative party, the hon. member for Lambton-Kent (Mr. Holmes). He put the problem in its proper framework and asked the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Ouellet) to reply to some of the problems facing native Canadians today with regard to housing. The