

Time Allocation

taxes and the people who are working hard, they are saying that we should stamp on them. That is the cry from the opposition. We expect it from the NDP, but it shames one to see the Liberal party take that attitude.

The hon. member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy), the toothless Tarzan, the "hon. Taxworthy," has sent out a householder report which says:

—65 per cent of the elderly own their own homes but only 6 per cent hold a mortgage on those homes and the remaining 59 per cent are therefore ineligible for a tax credit.

It is an untruth and a misleading statement. If only 6 per cent hold a mortgage, then only 6 per cent will get the mortgage interest deductibility credit, but every person who owns a home gets a property tax credit.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: This householder should be withdrawn before it gets out into the constituency and misleads the people. The hon. member goes on to say:

—the plan does nothing to assist families or the residential construction industry over the grim months ahead.

This plan, if passed, will help a man who has a mortgage of 12 per cent interest and pays \$5,000 in mortgage interest a year, because it will give him in effect a reduction of 3 per cent in his mortgage interest. In other words, he will get relief of 25 per cent on his mortgage interest rate. The hon. ladies and gentlemen opposite are making the country ring with their cries about high interest rates, and they are stopping this legislation from going to the home owners of Canada.

The hon. member goes on to say in his householder:

—low income home owners would not be eligible for full benefits.

That is a complete tissue of misconception. It does not matter what your income is. If you have a mortgage, you are eligible for assistance, and if you are a low income home owner with a large mortgage, as most of them are, then you will benefit tremendously. These people will get a tax rebate of 25 per cent from whatever mortgage interest rate they pay.

The hon. gentleman, in codicil tears, said that his party has not been allowed to move any amendments in the House, that their amendments were not given consideration. While in committee on Wednesday, 20 members spoke, three of whom were from our side. The rest were from the tatterdemalion crowd from across the aisle. They did not move one amendment. They merely talked about the principle of the bill. They are the tatterdemalion Tarzans without their teeth. The toothless, tattered and tatterdemalion Tarzans never moved one amendment, not one single amendment, not one.

● (1530)

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: We had committee stage back here on Wednesday. I never got a chance to open my mouth to answer a question. Members popped up like a jack-in-a-box so I would not have a chance to speak again to answer any questions.

[Mr. Crosbie.]

That is the truth, and that is the hon. gentleman who said he could not get any answers. He could not get any answers because he made his speech, left, and we never saw him again. He never came back to the committee.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: He was on the leadership trail all week except once when he spoke in committee. Welcome back. I hope he is not going to go on that forelorn hope again. Stick around. I say stick around and he will get some answers.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Crosbie: He said the bill was only introduced after 41 days had passed. I ask why? Because it was the legislation of the hon. member for Saint-Maurice (Mr. Chrétien) that we brought into the House from the last budget, legislation for which they were solely responsible and which they did not put through in a year. They took week after week to debate their own legislation, the income tax and the customs amendments. That is why we could never get on with the new business of the country because we had to deal with the old business, the tatterdemalion remnants over there would not allow it through the House.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: I suggest that if that is the best the official opposition has to offer, let us have a petition go round to bring back Pierre. He should never have left in the first place if that is what we are going to have to put up with. How is the mortgage and property tax credit going to be paid for? The hon. PC from Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles) wants to know how it is going to be paid for. This is how. We will leave the money in the pockets of those taxpayers so they do not have to pay us their money—\$575 million next year.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Crosbie: We know the NDP theory that everybody in the country, as I said a couple of weeks ago, should make out a cheque for their total income, send it in here, and the NDP will send them back what they think they should have. That is not our system. We want to leave it in their pockets, Mr. Speaker.

The finance critic for the New Democratic Party said "that the relief here is going to go to those people who need it least". So, home owners of Canada, you have been categorized by the hon. member from Toronto-Broadview. You, the home owners of Canada, you are the ones in Canada who need it least. Sock it to the home owners of Canada, put the boots to them, tax them unmercifully, do not give them a break, they need it least. I tell you, Mr. Speaker, there are many, many thousands of home owners in Canada who are poorer than renters in Canada. The renters in the penthouses in Toronto-Broadview, the renters in their penthouses in Winnipeg—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!