

Motions for Papers

suggest that persons who have read *Hansard* and persons who have contacted me would assume the documents are in my possession.

Since the motion was passed by the House I would ask as a point of order whether it is not obligatory for the government under such circumstances, where there was no reserve, to have tabled these documents within a reasonable period of time.

[Translation]

Mr. Kilgour: Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that documents may not be tabled unless translated. As I explained to the hon. member for Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert), this is in the process of being done and will require a little more time. This is all I can say on the matter.

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, according to what the parliamentary secretary just said I realize that he should have waited until he had the documents translated before informing the House that he was going to table them. I think that the practice he should follow before saying he is ready to table documents related to a motion presented by a member would be to have the translation of the said documents on hand before making his statement.

Mr. Kilgour: Mr. Speaker, can I suggest to my colleague from Drummond (Mr. Pinard) that he raise the matter with his colleague from Vaudreuil (Mr. Herbert)?

[English]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member has raised by way of a point of order a matter which I am sure will be examined by the Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Privy Council (Mr. Kilgour). I certainly hope so.

We have two kinds of situations here. One is that in which there would be an allegation that there has been delay on the part of the government in responding to the order of the House. That has not been suggested but I would want the parliamentary secretary to examine the causes for any delay so as to make sure there is no suggestion the government is delaying. That is only half the problem.

Once we have eliminated that—and, as I say, there is no allegation that there is any delay on the part of the government—then I and all hon. members would want to have some assurance that, if the House of Commons passes an order demanding the tabling of documents, that order will be complied with within a reasonable time. Again I say there is no allegation that it is the government that is flaunting the orders of Parliament, but I would want to be absolutely certain—and I would entrust this responsibility to the parliamentary secretary—that the public service, who might have responsibility in this regard, is giving proper respect and attention to the order of this House. I think all hon. members would want to be given some assurance in that regard.

Mr. Kilgour: I would be very happy to look into that, Mr. Speaker.

[Mr. Herbert.]

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining notices of motions for the production of documents be allowed to stand?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

INCOME TAX ACT

AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE TAX CREDIT IN RESPECT OF MORTGAGE INTEREST AND PROPERTY TAX

The House resumed from Tuesday, November 20, consideration of the motion of the Minister of Finance (Mr. Crosbie) that Bill C-20, to amend the Income Tax Act to provide a tax credit in respect of mortgage interest and home owner property tax, be read the second time and referred to Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Bill Blaikie (Winnipeg-Birds Hill): Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the first part of my speech I expressed this party's appreciation of the need which the mortgage tax credit legislation tries to meet; that is to say, the need of potential home owners and existing home owners to be better able to bear the costs of home ownership.

I went on to give some of our criticisms of this legislation as a tax policy, as an economic policy and as a housing policy. I noted that as a housing policy it overlooked the far greater need for action on the housing situation which is characteristic of the inner city areas in our major Canadian cities.

I also noted that as a housing policy addressed to the problem of the high cost of housing it missed the point of why house prices are so high in the first place. That is due to the incredible increase in the price of land which developed in the early 1970s, thanks to the developer monopolies which controlled most Canadian cities.

I was just about to speak on what I call the "unknown" in this legislation when we were called to the Senate to witness the royal assent of a bill. What I meant then and what I mean now by the unknown in this legislation is that we do not know where the money is going to come from. On this side of the budget which we expect on December 11, do we really know where the money that is necessary to finance the mortgage tax credit will come from? Given the envelope policy of this government and the government's lack of will to raise new amounts of revenue by considering ways in which more of the wealth created in this country might accrue to the public purse, we are faced with the situation in which we have to imagine just where the money will come from.

● (1520)

As we have said, we are in sympathy with the desire of any government to make life easier for those who are finding it difficult to realize one of their aspirations, in this case to own a