

at the moment. At the moment Canadians are working like the devil to bail themselves out of debt they never should have allowed themselves to accumulate but in which we, by federal programs more than anything else, have convinced them they should become involved.

I remember that at one stage of the game in Nova Scotia we had programs, which were sponsored by our electric utilities, designed to convince everyone to switch to electric heat. Night after night on our television screens we saw people telling us what a smart idea it would be to switch from oil, gas, coal or whatever we were using to electric heat. A great many people opted for that but then the government of Nova Scotia increased the cost of power by something like 150 per cent. All of a sudden those people who had enlisted in government programs for electric heat discovered that it was costing them more per month than their mortgage.

• (1710)

On the federal level we are in almost the same position. Through central mortgage and housing, which is now Canada Mortgage and Housing, we convinced Canadians to invest their money in homes for 40 or 50 years. We also convinced them to build bigger and better homes. The result is that today the average price of a home is out of all proportion to the incomes of most people. We must help them out because we created the situation. While this program may touch a few thousand people in the country, we must work to find a different program that will touch everyone who is in trouble. Until we do we will not really have lived up to our commitment.

The alternative is the type of frustration that results in a separatist being elected to the Alberta legislature. It is one thing to hear of separatists being elected in the province of Quebec; but it is another when a situation develops in western Canada whereby, because of such personal frustrations as high interest rates, someone is elected to the Alberta legislature, with the same objectives but for different reasons, as the separatists elected in the province of Quebec.

That is but another example of the sickness that is in the nation today, Mr. Speaker. We are charged with the responsibility of eliminating that sickness wherever it exists. We can do that only by introducing programs that relate to the problems of the people. It cannot be done by firing a civil servant who happens to speak out because he is frustrated by the introduction of the metric system. That is not the answer to any problem in the country. The principle of freedom of speech must be preserved. A man must have the freedom to speak out on something he does not believe in and must not be under threat of dismissal because he has the courage of his convictions.

Housing

If we want to make this institution work and if we want people to have respect for us, we must introduce programs that show we understand the problems and are working to solve them. I do not see that view in this legislation. It will be helpful to a few and I will support it for the value it has for the people it will touch; but, Mr. Speaker, it will not touch many people in the country. We need something much better if we are to grapple with the major problems that face Canadians today. It is time we faced the reality of the situation. When we do that, perhaps there will be some hope for a good tomorrow.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[English]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. 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 Surrey-White Rock-North Delta (Mr. Friesen)—Royal Canadian Mounted Police—Inquiry respecting investigation of convicted murderer Clifford Olson. (b) Statement made by prosecutor; the hon. member for Central Nova (Mr. MacKay)—Export Development Corporation—Construction of monument in Algeria. (b) Use of corporation resources; the hon. member for Comox-Powell River (Mr. Skelly)—Air Safety—Management of Aviation Safety Board.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

NATIONAL HOUSING ACT CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Cosgrove that Bill C-89, to amend the National Housing Act and the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on National Resources and Public Works.

Mr. Ian Waddell (Vancouver-Kingsway): Mr. Speaker, I should like to begin my speech by quoting the latest news report issued by Canadian Press which appeared in today's newspapers. It starts out as follows:

High interest rates will cause housing starts to fall nationally by 9 per cent and will make 1982 another bad year for the housing industry, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. says in its latest quarterly forecast.