

it is a very large rural riding. There are good provisions under this program. There are needy citizens not only in Northern Ontario, but across this country. There are people living in tarpaper shacks. They have pot belly stoves. They are unable to get warm and are unable to provide for their families.

We have to go further. I strongly believe we have to do so with provincial help. We have to work together to resolve the problems in the housing industry. We cannot do it by going it alone. Once again it is determined that this Government will not work with the people. The Liberals have their own thoughts. They do not share the thoughts of Canadians. They have their way of doing things and that is the way it will be.

We intend to change that pattern in a very short period of time. Let me now come to another area. Canadians young and old have always had a dream of owning their own home. We work hard over the years to get what we hope will be affordable housing. People have pride in getting a garden, a beautiful lawn, and a home.

I want to quote something that was said on February 10, 1980, "I would want to manage the economy in such a way that interest rates would, in fact, come down because the economy would be administered in a sound way." The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) said that in an interview with a reporter from *The Toronto Star*. Since that date I have friends, and I have colleagues who have friends, who have lost their homes because of this Government's policies and the increasing mortgage rates.

● (1730)

The mortgage interest rate policy of the Government has not been good for Canadians. The mortgage rate in 1974 was 11.88 per cent, in 1981 it was 21.46 per cent, and in 1984 it was 14.25 per cent. Approximately 2.2 jobs are created with every home built in the country. Coming from a resource-based area, I know that means employment not only directly in the construction industry but in the steel, forest and other related industries in the riding of Timiskaming and throughout northern Ontario. The adjustable seasonal rate is 166,000 or 22.5 per cent unemployed people in the construction industry across the country. It is a shameful number and it is due to the high interest rate policy of the present Government.

If a mortgage with a base rate of 12 per cent is renewed at 17 per cent, the first two percentage points are not covered by the insurance. Thus, three-quarters of the difference between 17 per cent and 14 per cent, or 3 per cent times three-quarters, which equals 2.25 per cent, will be paid. In other words, the Government is indicating that interest rates are rising. It is plain. It is in the Bill. There is no doubt that the Government is saying: "Hold on to your hats, here we go back to high interest rates". It is time for the Government to dissolve Parliament and go to the people. Then we could be rid of the problem—this Government.

**Mr. LeBlanc:** Have you read the Gallup?

**Mr. MacDougall:** The Gallup is fine. It is galloping along the way we want.

### *National Housing Act*

**Mr. Malépart:** Will you be back?

**Mr. MacDougall:** I will be back, and I will bring other colleagues from northern Ontario with me.

There are many areas at which I could look, but before concluding my remarks I would like to indicate that people with mortgage interest rates at 17 per cent, 18 per cent and 20 per cent are facing difficult times. Approximately two years to five years ago families had two working members. Today, if we travel across the country, how many families do we find with two members working? It could be the wife or it could be the husband who are working today. If they cannot afford the mortgages they have today, how will they be able to afford insurance to protect them against rising interest rates? If we are looking at \$1,050 on a \$70,000 mortgage or whatever, that might be a relief in some areas of the country. However, we are still not getting at the problem, which is the economic policies of the Government. This problem is evident in that mortgage interest rates are rising. The Government has mortgaged the future of our young people and the future of their children. At whatever we are looking, be it Bill C-37 or youth employment, it seems to come down to mismanagement by the Government and it is Canadian taxpayers who are paying for it.

I could refer to many sound areas such as native housing, RRAP and townships which do not qualify, housing geared to income and many other areas; however, I thank the House for the opportunity to participate.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Are there any questions or comments?

[Translation]

**Mr. Malépart:** Mr. Speaker, I realize the Hon. Member arrived here in the House after the short reign of the Progressive Conservative Government. Was he aware of the fact that the Minister responsible for CMHC asked one of his Conservative friends to examine how CMHC could be dismantled and divested of its programs, especially in the area of subsidized housing? The person in question was Mr. Elmer MacKay, who recently stepped down to let the Leader of the Progressive Conservatives run in his riding, I was going to say the little leader, and who is now an influential adviser.

My question will be directed as much to him as to the previous speaker. Do the Progressive Conservatives want an election as soon as possible so they can get rid of CMHC?

[English]

**Mr. MacDougall:** Yes and no.

**Mr. LeBlanc:** That is your policy—yes and no.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault):** Are there any further questions? The Hon. Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo) on debate.

**Mr. Stan J. Hovdebo (Prince Albert):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to participate in the debate on Bill C-37, which is