

*Income Tax Act*

domain. In some cases, beaches or access to beaches will be thrown open to the general public. This is a question that should have been answered many years ago and I am sorry that it was not. There is an immediate problem here and I believe a tax allowance or concession should be made available to people, along the lines suggested by the hon. member, respecting interest on mortgages when they have to deal with a problem not of their own making.

• (1750)

*[Translation]*

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, I should simply like to make a few comments on the motion now before us concerning home ownership and the deduction from personal income of the interest a person must pay for any building which enriches the whole country.

I think we should make efforts to encourage young people to become owners, because to be an owner is in fact to participate really, to possess really part of the fatherland. In some way, the home is a small fatherland someone owns, someone loves and someone wants to defend with all his strength.

It is fine to make nice patriotic speeches and to show young people that the fatherland is something sacred we must defend with all our strength but if we make it possible for young people to become real owners through legislation, they will have the pride of improving their property from year to year, and of being more concerned about the public administration, not only at the national level but at the provincial, municipal and school levels.

When we succeed in getting young people interested in becoming real homeowners, then we will interest them indirectly in the entire public administration, at any level. When we succeed in creating this concern in young people's mind, we may be sure that when unhappily a dramatic situation happens where our nation's fate is at stake, as I said earlier, then these young people will understand that their real homeland begins at the very level of the property.

When these young people understand that their property is part of the nation, they will be prepared to make sacrifices to safeguard it, at the school, municipal, provincial and national levels. I suggest that then it will really be possible to count on an efficient and interested contribution from every citizen to safeguard all the privileges that the property right involves.

I therefore understand perfectly well what prompted the hon. member to present that motion. He would like the state to facilitate access to home ownership and its permanence. For it is not enough to be able to become the owner of one's home; one must also be able to keep the house and tell the family: This property is truly ours.

I therefore feel that deducting the interest from taxable income of the individual to guarantee that right to ownership is very legitimate. I, who have several children, heard yesterday that two of them negotiated terms last week with a view to buying their own homes. So, from the bottom of my heart as their father, I congratulated them on their efforts to save on their income in order to do something that would make them worthy of being true Canadians and to interest their wives to do more so that

[Mr. Cullen.]

the houses will really be theirs, their own corner of Canada, so to speak.

I think that in their heart, all Canadian fathers and mothers want their children to be able to own a house where they can live 365 days a year. The government should allow them to deduct, for tax purposes, the interest they must pay to become owners which, in short, is part of the national heritage and we then will contribute to create among our youth a real interest that will finally enable them to better understand what is the meaning of father land.

I strongly support this motion so that we should finally give our youth the right to private ownership. We must recognize this not only in principle but in fact and give youth tax benefits so that they should realize their ambitions.

**Mr. J.-Roland Comtois (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, I merely wish to add a few words concerning this motion and to remind hon. members that one of the problems to be faced by the government is the matter of establishing its priorities. According to the wording of his own motion, the hon. member for Regina East recognizes that the government's income would decrease by at least \$930 million, whereas his colleagues and namely the financial critic of his own party, suggest that the government should increase its disbursements by \$2 billion for the current year.

As for the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), who supports the motion, he recommended an increase in old age pensions last week and the lowering of the age of eligibility. So—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. parliamentary secretary. The time allotted to private members business has expired. The House will now resume the debate interrupted at five o'clock.

*[English]*

The hour appointed for the consideration of private members' business has now expired. Before the Chair calls it six o'clock, I might suggest that the House go back into committee of the whole on Bill C-170. Is this agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

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## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

### INCOME TAX ACT

The House resumed consideration in committee of Bill C-170, to amend the statute law relating to income tax—Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton)—Mr. Laniel in the chair.

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order. It being six o'clock, I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.