

National Housing Act

There is another argument in this regard. When we attempt to apply restrictive acts to hold down inflationary pressures by applying this type of restriction across the country indiscriminately, we are actually giving the country what I would call a castor oil treatment.

In those areas and regions where there is no inflationary pressure a policy to stop inflation such as that announced by the minister should be applied according to where the need is greatest. In other words, we should have a regional policy of restrictive acts by the government in respect of fiscal policies to check inflation.

In conclusion, I should like to remind the house, in the event that hon. members do not already know, that this program regarding sewage disposal plants in cities is a program which we started and of which we are very proud. I hope the government continues it.

[Translation]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, we listened with attention to the statement made by the Minister of Labour (Mr. Nicholson) to the effect that the application of the act authorizing the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to make loans to municipalities, provinces, municipal corporations has been extended until 1970.

I am grateful to the minister for sending me a French copy of his statement.

I would also like to tell him that we are happy that the application of that act has been extended until 1970, because I have been asking the government for several years now to help the municipalities as much as possible. On the other hand, we are not asking that they be helped by taxing them or charging them an interest rate which will increase considerably the debt they will contract with the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

As an example, let us assume that the city of Rouyn borrows \$100,000 from the Central Housing and Mortgage Corporation at 5½ per cent for a period of 50 years. This means that, in 50 years, the city of Rouyn would have paid, in interest only, the amount of \$287,500 all the capital being due, that is \$100,000, or a total of \$387,500 for a \$100,000 loan.

Now, we ask the government to study the possibility of interest-free loans to municipalities and provinces, so that these public bodies would pay once only for the

[Mr. Hamilton.]

projects to be carried out within the limits of their jurisdiction.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I wish to call the attention of both the government and the hon. Minister of Labour to that point. I understand that this is just a question of sewage and waterworks, but there are other things to do in the municipalities.

In any case, we are glad that the government has agreed to extend the assistance to municipalities but let us help them without making them sink into unpayable debt.

[English]

Mr. R. N. Thompson (Red Deer): Mr. Speaker, we are grateful to the minister for giving us prior notice of this motion. We are also grateful that this further step is being taken to assist municipalities in financing a certain aspect of their capital development. We believe it is only a portion of the assistance which must be given to them but it is certainly a step in the right direction. We are glad the minister has seen fit to recommend it.

CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT**EXTENSION TO HUMAN BEINGS OF PROVISIONS AFFECTING ANIMALS**

Mr. M. L. Klein (Cartier) moved for leave to introduce Bill No. C-141, to amend the Criminal Code (Cruelty to animals and to human beings).

Some hon. Members: Explain.

Mr. Klein: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to amend the section of the Criminal Code which makes it an offence to stage a fight between animals and between birds by adding the category of human beings so as to extend to human beings the protection now extended to animals.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.

Motion agreed to and bill read the first time.

DIVORCE**MOTION TO ESTABLISH JOINT COMMITTEE**

On the order: Government notices of motion:

That a special joint committee of the Senate and House of Commons be appointed to inquire into and report upon divorce in Canada and the social and legal problems relating thereto, and such matters as may be referred to it by either house;

That 24 members of the House of Commons, to be designated by the house at a later date, be members of the special joint committee, and that standing order 67 (1) of the House of Commons be suspended in relation thereto;