

Housing

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I should probably direct my attention to public housing of a particular kind.

Mr. Friesen: This is public housing.

Mr. Hawkes: Like a jail is a kind of public housing.

Mr. Fulton: Good place for Tories!

Mr. Hawkes: Sometimes I think our priorities of what is a danger to our society are a little mixed up.

Mr. Friesen: Cuba has public housing.

Mr. Hawkes: We let the wrong people out on the streets sometimes because they do not know what it is that they are doing. Any group of hon. members sitting down at the far end of this Chamber who would have chosen the budget which we are now debating over the budget of 1979 either did not do their homework or had no sense of integrity—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Hawkes:—about what is right in this society. They did not read it, or they did not understand it, or they had no integrity. However, Canadians remember that 18-cent increase for a gallon of gas was too much. Two years later it is 86 cents. In my election campaign, I said to the people in my riding, "Remember wage and price controls—90 days is too much and we got more than ten times that much." I said that if they tell you 18 cents is too much, ten times 18 is \$1.80.

• (2120)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: With all due respect to the hon. member, the Chair is listening with interest but having difficulty relating it to the subject before us.

Mr. Hawkes: When you have to increase the price of gasoline by \$1.80 a gallon, you have no money left to pay the mortgage on your house. It is a very simple situation.

If you really want to make it relevant, the then finance minister from Newfoundland stood in the House and told Canadians that they had a choice as to whether or not to drive their cars. He said that we were going to raise the price of gasoline 18 cents a gallon, but if they did not drive their cars they would not have to put that 18 cents in the public till. However, because they had to heat their houses, he said there would not be any tax on home heating oil. He said we would put the tax where there is a choice as to whether to spend it, but there is no choice as to whether to heat your home, so we will not put a tax there.

The New Democratic Party, the Liberal Party west, joined with their partners across the way and said "That is not a good deal. We will kick you out, put the other guys in and increase taxes on home heating oil". They agreed to an indirect tax of \$100 per month, and mortgage rates rising 8 per cent. They said now we will have equity. Do you know the purest form of equity, the easiest thing in the world to divide into equal shares? It is nothing.

If all of us cease to work and farmers cease to produce, we will come to a perfect state of equity. However, we value a

society where those who want a little more, such as a little better home, car and better food, are willing to work a little harder to get it, they produce.

If the million unemployed Canadians could find useful work to do, we would be a nation engaged in the production of wealth. The harder we work, the more we produce, the better our health care systems, pensions for our senior citizens and those with physical handicaps.

That is the kind of vision that this party had and has. The Liberals and the New Democratic Party decided that our desire to provide tax relief to those who have to pay municipal taxes and make mortgage payments was not fair. They said all Canadians should not get some tax relief for owning a piece of property, a home.

Tonight, two years later, we stand in the House with a piece of legislation that will provide increased indebtedness to a segment of our society that is already in debt over its head, not able to make mortgage payments on their homes. This government says it will provide some insurance which will allow these people to borrow more money to go further into debt to delay the day of reckoning for two or three years. This legislation encourages a poorer segment of society to go deeper into debt and to postpone the day of reckoning for two years.

I ask members opposite whether they wish that back in December 1979 they had put in place the proposed scheme which would have provided tax relief for municipal taxes and interest payments on the mortgages of all Canadians who own a home. I ask the Liberal Party and the New Democratic Party whether they feel that if that legislation had passed there would be today more construction, more jobs, more production in the factories of Ontario and Quebec of stoves, refrigerators, vacuum cleaners and carpets, and whether the demands for unemployment insurance and other social payments of that kind would be down because a higher portion of our population would be working. I ask hon. members to consider that.

I stand here tonight to accuse the New Democratic Party of causing this situation. That is who caused the opportunity system to put in a government that is unbelievable, cannot be trusted and is exceedingly destructive. I do so tonight as a Member of Parliament from the city of Calgary with the certain knowledge that some 25 miles from my home the voters last week elected a separatist. The reason they elected a separatist is that they do not trust, and they are looking for a way out. They are angry. They come from a part of this country where government policy, and government policy alone, has killed close to 50 per cent of the jobs in the exploration and service part of the oil industry. Government policy and government policy alone has decided to send the money to Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Libya instead of investing it in drilling rigs and in Canadians to drill for oil and gas, to refine and deliver. It is a government that has chosen to export jobs from my region of the country, and the people do not like it.