

CMHC is more independent than the CBC and the Bank of Canada and many other crown corporations. The ad hoc basis of the policies on housing has been the result of this agency recommending amendments to the act. Let us make no mistake about it, Mr. Speaker. I am not suggesting this, but I would ask, through you, whether some of the people in CMHC helped put together the hour and a half speech that I listened to this evening.

Mr. Hees: No, they can do better than that. I have heard them and you cannot insult them like that. They will only take so much.

Mr. Woolliams: That is right, they will only take so much. The time is fast coming, if we are going to work with all levels of government so as to have that degree of control within the terms of the constitution, when the federal government will be able to give leadership not only in developing new communities but in improving old communities. They must work, as I said, under a new national urban development policy and a new national housing development policy, so that pollution control can be effective, so that money-wise, rapid transit systems can be implemented, not only in newly developing areas but in established areas, and so that the whole quality of life in the city can be improved and men and women and their families can live in proper accommodation with dignity and happiness. This policy could become the greatest tool in halting the increase in crime. For crime breeds in poverty and poverty exists in ghettos. The growth and development of youth in the nation is only a product of the environment from whence they spring.

I am almost finished, Mr. Speaker, but when dealing with differences between what happens in Newfoundland, what happens in Ontario, what happens in Alberta and what happens in British Columbia, perhaps a small poem written by Don Harron in satirical fashion might do a lot to show what I mean by differences between people. It is entitled, "Ode on You, O Canada" and it is from the book "Charlie Farquharson's Histry of Canada". My son gave me this to read, and when I read it last night I felt it added the right touch. I have not ended on a poetical note for some time, so if the House will forgive me I should like to put it on the record. I am sure I will get the ears of the House because I do not put this forward in a partisan way. I rather like it:

What is Canada to you?
This land so strong and true.

Have you ever before heard the words "This land so strong and true", Mr. Speaker?

What does it make you think of,
And why and where and how?
Whenever I think of my country,
It seems like a great big cow.
Yes, a Guernsey or a Holsteen,
Is that sich a foolish notion?
Lappin' its fill of the waters
Of our very own Pasifick Ocean.
Then chewin' its cud on the Prayerrees,
Right over yer Kickin' Horse Pass
In the breadbasket of our nation,
As it regurgitates its grass.
And settles its mash in Ontario,

National Housing Act

Then to the loins of our country,
Where somethin' surely is stirrin'!
Listen and you can hear
A rumblin' and grumblin' and whirrin'.
The wind of change is blowin'!
Can't you hear its howls?
As we wonder at all those movements
Deep in our nation's bowels.
And so we come to the end of my tail
And all its little rimes . . .
And doesn't this allus happen
To the dear old Marrytimes?

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Mr. Speaker, if the hon. member who just preceded me, from Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams), had not been spokesman for the Conservative party, at times during his speech I would have been moved to tears as a reaction to his expression of profound concern for the plight of those in Canada who need housing. One would have thought that nowhere in this country were there to be found Conservative governments at the provincial level who have had some responsibility for housing. One would have thought that at the federal level the Conservative party from 1958 till 1962 had had no responsibility for housing. One would have thought, indeed, that all the faults of housing policy in Canada—there are many and I shall say something about them in a moment—were attributable solely to the party opposite, the Liberals.

I should like to remind the hon. member for Calgary North that when the New Democratic Party was elected in Manitoba it did more for housing in one year than was done in the preceding five by the Conservative government in that province. I should like to remind the hon. member who has just spoken that the Conservative party, not just the Liberal party, must bear their share of responsibility for the housing situation that has existed across the country ever since the Second World War when the National Housing Act was passed and CMHC came into being soon after.

However, I am not going to spend time on the hon. member's very interesting and rhetorical address. I want to move on to what the minister had to say, because it is the government of the day that must bear the responsibility for present housing policies. I was touched by the minister's phrases. He talked in his speech about the basic and elemental needs of people. He said it was not merely a question of housing and shelter but a question of community with which we must be concerned. He talked about housing being a basic right of all Canadians. Another phrase he used was that we must look beyond the home to the community in which a man and his family lives. He has only been minister for two years now, and I am not suggesting that he is not personally concerned about housing.

Mr. Basford: One year.

Mr. Broadbent: The minister corrects me and says one year. It is a year that seems like two years.

Mr. Basford: So much has been done.

Mr. Broadbent: I will come to that. It is interesting to read the catalogue of programs that the minister presented to us. What it really is is the best possible documenta-