

### *Supplementary Borrowing Authority*

employees asking if they are going to be taxed and we cannot answer. We do not know. There is no plan. There is no confidence.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) in his fireside chats said that we have to trust him, trust each other, trust Canadians. I trust Canadians. I trust them to get us out of the problems we are in, but they have to be encouraged. They have to be shown leadership. This has to be done but it is not being done.

The Prime Minister was the man who stood up and said "Zap, you are frozen" when he talked about wage and price controls. Then he brought them in. "Trust me", is what he said, "I will manage the economy so interest rates will come down". They went up to 20 per cent. "Trust me", he said, "and I will keep your gas prices down". Do Hon. Members remember that promise? How can this man ask for trust? He is the wrong man to be asking for trust. There are a few members over there, very few, I would accept that from, but not him. He has no credibility. He has no right to ask that of the Canadian people after what he has done to them.

I would like to talk now about housing. I was very interested in the speech of the new Minister responsible for CMHC today and his brief 15-minute chat on housing. He also acknowledges that there are problems in the country. Actually, they are making some headway over there. They are finally realizing there is a problem. Whether they will do something about it is another matter. I can remember very vividly the Minister of State for Finance (Mr. Cosgrove), while participating in a debate on estimates, saying: "I have the solution, we are going to move up our 15,000-unit program for apartments to 30,000 this year". That was last March. Today, 7,814 units in the Canada Rental Supply Plan have been taken up according to figures from CMHC. I remember asking at that time if that was enough money to make it economically feasible to build apartment units. "Oh, yes", he replied, "they will be gobbled up in no time flat". To date three or four Provinces have not taken any up at all. New Brunswick has taken up eight, Nova Scotia, 107. Ontario leads the way, as it should. These are dismal figures and a long way from the 30,000 rental units which we need in this country.

Then there is the Canadian Homeownership Stimulation Plan, which has been adjusted and somewhat extended; 63,862 grants have been taken up from the Federal Government, 41,000 for existing housing and 22,495 grants of \$3,000 have been taken up in new housing. We asked CMHC how many of those 22,000 were existing new homes already in stock and just sitting there. They did not know. They do not keep those figures.

● (1430)

How many new starts, Mr. Speaker, do you think this generates? Well, we do not know, yet the Minister responsible for housing said today this program created 100,000 jobs. He does not know if it did or not. The idea is to stimulate the construction industry. Housing starts are at the lowest point in years. I can still see my friend standing up there and talking

about the starts that are going to take place because of all his wonderful programs, but it just has not happened.

I was interested to hear the Minister responsible for housing say that consumer attitude is causing the uncertainty. I say to the Minister—I am sorry he is not in the House but I am sure someone will pass the word along to him—that the problem is not the downpayment; the problem is the carrying charges. Young people are concerned about whether or not they can afford to carry the house. The carrying charges are just too high. Interest rates are too high. Today we heard the Minister of Finance bragging that interest rates have come down recently, for ten straight weeks or something, and he has taken credit for it. Yet it was not two months ago that the other Minister of Finance was saying that the reason we have high interest rates is because the United States has them. So when they go up, it is the Americans' fault; when they come down, it is all the wonderful work this Government is doing. I really find that kind of amazing.

The Minister responsible for housing also mentioned that the average of home ownership is highest in Canada. That is true, and I want it to stay up there. One of the problems, though, is that it is beginning to fall. We have come down from a high of 65 per cent home ownership to about 60 per cent. I happen to think, Mr. Speaker, that home ownership is probably the cornerstone of a free and democratic society. The right to own property and do with it as you please, within certain guidelines, is probably one of the most important things we have to ensure the protection of democracy. When the system is kicking people out of their homes, people turn on the system. I do not want them to turn on the system. I want them to be well housed, and I am suggesting now that the Minister take a look at his program for rental units, which is not working and not doing the proper thing, and possibly divert some of those funds into co-op housing which we need so desperately today.

In winding up, I do not want to let my friends to the left go unscathed because I heard the Leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Broadbent) say Maggie Thatcher is doing the wrong thing over there. Watch what Maggie Thatcher is doing and it is all wrong. Well, Maggie Thatcher has reduced inflation in Britain, and that was her number one goal. If you talk to the British people, they are very happy and very pleased about that. They are going to get Britain back on its feet. They inherited one heck of a mess from those socialists, the Labour Party, when they took over. And we are going to have the same problem when we take over in Canada in trying to clean up this mess that that gang over there has left us with, with the co-operation of the NDP.

I listened to the Leader of the NDP espousing the theme of the Marxist-Leninists in the last federal election: let the rich pay. The whole theme then was let the rich pay, and he was espousing that theme again today. Where did he get that from? Did he get it from the Marxist-Leninists? Probably. Original thinking. It is just terrible.

I want to say to the Canadian people, Mr. Speaker, that the Government is now acknowledging for the first time that there