

*Canada Business Corporations Act*

● (1500)

**Mr. Sharp:** Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources is quite right in believing that when he makes a statement it should be as comprehensive as possible. It should deal with the guidelines which might govern the conduct of individuals. It should deal with this government and other governments throughout the country. The government itself, of course, would have preferred if it had been possible to bring down such a statement a little earlier. However, the situation is extremely complicated, and I am sure the Leader of the Opposition agrees that when the minister makes a statement it should be one that will be given widespread support.

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## HOUSE OF COMMONS

## PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF PRIME MINISTER OF ICELAND

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. Before bringing the question period to a conclusion, may I take this opportunity to call the attention of the House to the presence in our gallery of a very distinguished visitor among us who is in Canada to help celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the first landing of Icelandic settlers in Canada and also for discussions with our Prime Minister here, in Ottawa. I am sure I speak on behalf of all hon. members in extending to Mr. Hallgrímsson, Prime Minister of Iceland, our warmest welcome.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** Orders of the day.

## GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

## CANADA BUSINESS CORPORATIONS ACT

MEASURE TO PROVIDE FOR APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND FOR ADMINISTRATION OF MEASURE

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs)** moved that Bill C-29, respecting Canadian business corporations, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

**Mr. Sharp (for Mr. Ouellet)** moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

[Mr. Stanfield.]

## NATIONAL HOUSING ACT

AMENDMENTS TO AMOUNT OF INSURED LOANS, TO INCREASE CAPITAL OF CORPORATIONS, ETC.

**Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of State for Urban Affairs)** moved that Bill C-46, to amend the National Housing Act, be read the second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Health, Welfare and Social Affairs.

He said: Mr. Speaker, in moving second reading of this bill to amend the National Housing Act, I have the support of many colleagues on both sides of the House. I am very much aware that it will be 40 years in June since the first federal housing act was introduced in this House. In light of the present very comprehensive National Housing Act, the Dominion Housing Act of 1935 was perhaps not a very far reaching piece of legislation. It authorized the minister of Finance to join with a lending institution, or a local authority, to share in making loans for building new homes. It was significant, however, in another way: by introducing the Dominion Housing Act, the Government of Canada accepted for the first time a public responsibility and obligation for the way in which all Canadians were housed.

Since that time, of course, we have passed the National Housing Acts of 1938, 1944 and 1954, and more than a dozen amendments to the 1954 act, notably the amendments of 1973 which introduced the very successful Assisted Home Ownership Program, neighbourhood assistance, residential rehabilitation assistance, the new communities program, and expanded and improved a number of other existing programs.

I mention this historical background as a way of putting the bill we are discussing into its proper perspective. Some hon. members and others outside this House have been discussing these new measures as if they were the only instruments in the hands of the government for dealing with the country's housing problems as if they, by themselves, were to serve the needs of people of all incomes in all parts of the country. They are, in fact, only the latest extensions to a very broad piece of social legislation which has evolved over the years to meet the changing demands and expectations of Canadians. Hon. members will be pleased to learn that Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has prepared a summary of its programs, which will be given to each member of this House and of the other place to enable them to obtain a better understanding of the comprehensive nature of the many programs which this House has passed for the benefit of Canadians.

I would like to speak first about the two sections of this bill which are most directly related to housing, that is, the proposals which offer contributions in support of private funds for financing home ownership, and the creation of housing for rental at moderate rates. These programs have purposes which could be described very generally in three ways—as social, financial and economic. As social housing programs, they are intended to help substantial numbers of Canadian families either to buy their own homes or to rent suitable accommodation at a cost they can afford. The privately funded Assistant Home Ownership Program and the privately funded rental housing program widen the range of choices which are available to Canadians to deal