

*Supply*

This is not a document submitted by the Liberal Party. It is a document submitted by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. For 1984, public housing loans amounted to \$2.4 million. In 1985, the figure was \$.7 million—more than \$1.5 million was cut.

In the area of federal-provincial housing the amount of money spent in 1984 was \$128.1 million. In 1985, it was only \$77.4 million. Again, another cut by the Conservative Government.

In relation to residential rehabilitation loans, the amount spent in 1984 was \$189.4 million, while in 1985 the figure was \$127.5 million. Another cut by the Conservative Government.

In relation to housing research in 1984 some \$26.9 million was spent by the then Government. In 1985, the figure was \$22.8 million. Again, another cut by the Conservative Government.

With respect to residential rehabilitation grants, some \$202.3 million was spent in 1984 and only \$159 million was spent in 1985. Again, a substantial cut by the Conservative Government.

*[Translation]*

When you think, Mr. Speaker, that only in the province of Quebec some 200,000 households presently live in inadequate dwellings, when you think that just in the province of Quebec only 50,000 dwellings are supposed to meet the needs of elderly people and needy families, and when you drive through Quebec and in particular when you visit the various Montreal districts, you realize how pressing, how urgent the need is for adequate housing for low income families and mostly for elderly and lonely people. However, the Minister is telling us that his first goal is to help reduce the federal deficit, his second one to help just a few, and his third one to ask others to assume the responsibilities that he should be assuming himself. I therefore submit that elderly Canadians have been betrayed by the Conservative Government and that the program of housing starts for elderly people, particularly in such a community as Montreal, is absolutely essential and should be extended and increased. And if on the one hand I am pleased that the Canadian Government and the Quebec Government reached an agreement on social housing, I am on the other hand concerned by the new standards applied to people with incomes below the poverty line, incomes that you can hardly live on, on which you cannot afford to live decently, but merely to survive. We are now realizing that the policy of the

Conservative Government consists unfortunately in denying those people the help that they used to get from the former Liberal Government. Countless Canadian families which would have qualified for residential rehabilitation assistance will be denied those subsidies that they used to be entitled to because the Conservative Government decided to involve them in reducing the Canadian deficit in spite of the dire housing needs of Canada.

We have the views of a Canadian personality who is neutral, who is not involved in politics. They will help us all reflect on this. I am referring to the comments made by the Bishop of Gatineau-Hull, Mgr. Adolphe Proulx, who recently had very harsh words against the intention of the Canadian Government, the Tory Government to reduce social housing programs. He is wholeheartedly supporting the *Front commun sur le logement social*, which includes 85 community groups from all Quebec areas.

The Hon. Member for LaPrairie (Mr. Jourdenais), who was faithfully reading from a text prepared by an assistant to the Minister, has mentioned that there had been consultation. I wonder if the consultation referred to by the Hon. Member for La Prairie was really fruitful, because 85 community groups from all Quebec areas have condemned the housing policies of the Conservative Government. It was necessary for Mgr. Proulx to denounce publicly the cut-backs in the housing program to show how badly the housing policy of the Conservative Government had failed.

I therefore congratulate my colleague for Hamilton East (Ms. Copps) for having allowed us to discuss this issue today and show once more to the Canadian public that the Conservatives are heartless, that they have money only for the big oil multinationals and that the poorest among us have to pay the cost because this Government cares only for the most powerful members of our society.

*[English]*

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** It being five o'clock, it is my duty to inform the House that pursuant to Standing Order 82(12), the proceedings on the motion have expired.

*[Translation]*

This House stands adjourned until Monday at 11 a.m. pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 5 p.m.