

sponsibility for the design of buildings a few years back, I want to support this motion and to congratulate my colleague, the hon. member for Davenport (Mr. Caccia), for putting it forward. I was interested in the building trade at the time when new or adequate insulation standards were introduced, and perhaps by virtue of that I have some understanding of the enormity of the task of getting common acceptance for the use of solar energy in every-day housing and in other applications.

I want to comment on the positive role that the National Research Council has been playing in co-ordinating research effort and in advancing the state of the art. I hope that with the passing of this motion and in subsequent action on it by the government not only will the financial aspect of this motion be supported but also that recognition will be given to the fact that this is another problem which has to be addressed before there will be any wide scale acceptance of solar heating in mass produced housing.

Builders are reluctant to use new methods unless it is demonstrated to them that they are reliable, that they perform well and that down the road they will not be plagued with operational problems which will interfere with their business. The only point I want to make is that there is a large role for some government agency—I am not just sure which one it ought to be—in doing the innovative work for the early adapters, and in making sure that design work is done and that this new method is promoted. I do not mean to be negative toward people in the building business, but very few of them are prone to spend very much money or time to design new and innovative designs or to try out new ideas, and it seems to me that this is one of the roles that the government will have to play. It will have to do the engineering, the verification and the product testing so that people buying can be sure that the product is reliable and that its performance will be good. In addition to making appropriate changes in lending policies toward the application of solar energy, I hope that there is recognition that there is a large design, selling and demonstration job to be done.

I would like to put on the record the good work the community college in my riding is doing at the present time. It is putting together an alternative energy source house to demonstrate not only solar but also many other types of renewable energy approaches which can be used. I think this type of thing, along with the intent of this motion, will further the art.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to.

Financial Administration Act

[*Translation*]

Mr. Pinard: Mr. Speaker, under the circumstances, I suppose there is unanimous consent to let you say that it is six o'clock.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Does the House agree?

[*English*]

Mr. Paproski: Agreed.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Agreed.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): It being six o'clock, the hour provided for the consideration of private members' business has now expired. I do now leave the chair until eight o'clock.

At 5.47 p.m. the House took recess.

● (2002)

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION ACT

AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Cullen (for Mr. Andras) that Bill C-10, to amend the Financial Administration Act, be read the third time and do pass.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. At five o'clock the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens) had the floor.

Mr. Sinclair Stevens (York-Simcoe): Mr. Speaker, as you have said, at five o'clock I had the floor and, you will recall, I was pointing out that as the result of the expenditure explosion which the federal government has permitted to occur in Canada, a very unhappy level of taxation has been reached. It means that the average Canadian family are paying substantially more in income tax than their counterparts in the United States.

I pointed out that this has resulted in Canadians being enticed to some degree to emigrate to the United States where they feel they bear a lighter tax load or, conversely, it means that Canadians who stay in Canada demand exceedingly high gross wages so as to have the same take home pay as they would if they were living and working in the United States. This is of particular concern to Canada today when we have lost a certain competitiveness in relation to our main trading partner, the United States.