

*National Housing Act*

Presenting reports by standing and special committees.

**Mr. Lambert:** Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that in so far as the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre (Mr. Churchill) is concerned, the matter has come during proceedings, and therefore, is not subject to the one hour rule.

**Mr. Speaker:** This is an ingenious interpretation of the rules, but I suggest to the hon. member that he cannot interpret the rule to the effect that the matter involved is a matter having come out of the proceedings of the house when the house started at 2.40 p.m. and the only proceeding we have had—if that is a proceeding—is the very question of privilege. The hon. member cannot say he raises a question of privilege and therefore the proceeding has started. This would be circumventing the rule.

I again appeal to hon. members to accept the ruling of the chair and to raise the question at the first opportunity tomorrow.

Presenting reports by standing and special committees.

[*Translation*]

**MISCELLANEOUS PRIVATE BILLS****FIRST REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

First report of the standing committee on miscellaneous private bills—Mr. Loiselle.

[Editor's note: The text of the said report will be printed as an appendix to *Votes and Proceedings*.]

[*English*]

**Mr. Speaker:** Motions.

**NATIONAL HOUSING ACT****SEWAGE TREATMENT PROJECT LOANS**

**Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Minister of Labour):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to make a brief statement concerning sewage treatment project loans under the National Housing Act.

To assist in the elimination or prevention of soil and water pollution—

**Mr. Woolliams:** Get the Minister of Justice; he knows all about pollution.

**Mr. Nicholson:** —and to help ease the serious unemployment situation that existed at the time, an amendment to the National Housing Act in December 1960 authorized Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to make loans to provinces, municipalities or municipal sewage corporations. These loans were offered for projects consisting of trunk

sewage collector systems, central treatment plants, or both, for the collection and treatment of sewage from one or more municipalities.

Under this provision of the National Housing Act, such loans are made in an amount not exceeding two thirds of the cost. They are made at a favourable interest rate, which is currently 5½ per cent, for a term not exceeding the useful life of the project, or 50 years. Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is also authorized by the said Act to forgive 25 per cent of the loan on the completion of a project.

• (2:50 p.m.)

Hon. members will perhaps recall that on August 2, 1965 the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) announced that certain measures would be taken by the government to stretch out the excessive demands being placed on the construction industry in 1965 and 1966. The government believes that one way to help bring about this result is to extend until March 1970, the period within which all such sewage treatment projects may be completed, in order to qualify for forgiveness of 25 per cent of the loan. Consequently proposals to amend the National Housing Act will be brought forward by the government within a few months, and these will include a recommendation to parliament to extend from March 31, 1967 to March 31, 1970 the time during which expenditures on such projects might qualify for forgiveness for part of the loan.

I trust hon. members will co-operate in helping to bring this announcement to the attention of municipal and other interested officials in their respective ridings, so they may know that it will not be necessary to meet the deadline on March 31, 1967.

**Hon. Alvin Hamilton (Qu'Appelle):** Mr. Speaker, we have listened to the announcement with all the concentration we can muster under the circumstances. My first observation has to be that as a result of this stretching out, as I understood the minister's statement, there will be no incentive for our cities which are suffering from water pollution to press forward with their sewage disposal plants. If I am right in that interpretation I would suggest that in part this is a bad decision, and I say that for this reason. If this is merely a stretching out, one of the things it will have the effect of doing is slowing down the speed at which cities assume the necessary task of clearing up the pollution of our waters.