

National Housing Act
BROADCASTING

INQUIRY AS TO REPORT OF FOWLER
COMMITTEE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Robert Simpson (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Secretary of State. Can he inform the House when the Government expects to receive the long awaited report of the advisory committee on broadcasting?

Hon. Maurice Lamontagne (Secretary of State): Mr. Speaker, I said the other day that I expected the report in June.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. R. Gordon L. Fairweather (Royal): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Justice. According to an interpretation in an article in Monday's *Gazette* the current formula for constitutional amendment has been embalmed by the Government of Quebec. Does the Minister not agree that if this formula is not dead it is sleeping?

NATIONAL HOUSING ACT

PROVISION FOR INCREASES IN ADVANCES TO
CORPORATION

The house resumed, from Tuesday, April 27, consideration in committee of the following resolution—Mr. Nicholson—Mr. Batten in the Chair:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to amend the National Housing Act, 1954, to increase—

(a) from two and one-half billion dollars to three and one-quarter billion dollars the amount the Minister of Finance may advance to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation for the purpose of making direct loans to borrowers to assist in the construction of houses and housing projects;

(b) from one hundred million dollars to three hundred million dollars the amount the Minister of Finance may advance or pay to the Corporation to make loans and grants relating to urban renewal schemes and to meet obligations incurred under urban redevelopment agreements;

(c) from fifty million dollars to one hundred and fifty million dollars the amount in the special account established in the Consolidated Revenue Fund out of which advances may be made toward public housing projects developed jointly by the Corporation and a province or any agency thereof;

(d) from one hundred and fifty million dollars to two hundred million dollars the maximum amount the Minister may advance to the Corporation for the purpose of making loans for university housing projects; and

(e) from six billion dollars to eight and one-half billion dollars the maximum amount of all loans in respect of which insurance policies may be issued under the Act.

[Mr. McIlraith.]

Mr. Graftey: Mr. Chairman, since the Minister and the Government introduced this resolution certain very basic and important developments have taken place in the housing field. They not only relate to the Government's record and intentions in the housing field but touch upon a much more fundamental question, namely the question of Federal-Provincial relations. Since the Minister introduced the resolution into this House the Minister for Municipal Affairs in the Province of Quebec, Mr. Pierre Laporte, has said the Government of that Province intends to move into the area of housing. In fact he simply said the Government of Quebec intends to set up an authority for housing.

I want to underline the importance of this debate at this stage, Mr. Chairman. I am going to ask the Government certain questions, and every member of the opposition will expect detailed answers; because we have a right to know whether co-operative federalism is being practised in the true sense of the word. I asked the Minister in the House four days ago, and I did not get any answer whatever, whether Mr. Laporte or the Province of Quebec consulted the Federal Government before this announcement was made. Since the announcement was made many days ago, I should like the Minister to tell us whether anybody in the Federal Government has consulted with the Province of Quebec in order to determine exactly what is meant by that Province moving into the housing field, and the degree of moving in. In other words this is one instance where, as a member of the opposition, I demand to know whether co-operative federalism is being practised in the true sense of the word.

This Government's record in Federal-Provincial relations has been appalling. One week it is a jurisdictional dispute with the Province of Quebec over treaties; the next week it is over banks, then it is job placement and now it is housing. We want to know what is going on in this regard. We want to know because the right hon. Prime Minister and his Cabinet stumble from crisis to crisis in the field of Federal-Provincial relations.

• (3:30 p.m.)

The Prime Minister of this country, no matter what party he heads, has the singular obligation of defining and defending the federal cause; but the present Prime Minister, instead of defending the federal cause, negotiates it. He hastily summons summit meetings with provincial premiers when it is too late, when the damage is done; and national unity suffers. I choose to ask for