

\$1,400 which was deducted from their contracts? That \$1,400 includes the veteran's credit or gratuity.

Mr. MACKENZIE: The figures quoted were after deduction of the \$1,400. The hon. member for Souris (Mr. Ross) spoke last night of veterans being called upon to pay \$7,300. Again I want to give the facts in regard to the project he mentioned in the neighbourhood of Winnipeg. The facts are that the veterans pay \$600 down. For the larger house they pay an additional \$5,256 in monthly instalments. For the smaller house they pay an additional \$4,709 in monthly instalments. The actual cost to the veteran is not \$7,300, but \$5,856 for the larger house and \$5,309 for the smaller house.

The other question raised was the possibility of a further reduction in the capital cost. I feel reluctant to speak on this before receiving the report of the committee of inspection dealing with the physical nature of the project.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): What are the names of the three men on the committee?

Mr. MACKENZIE: The deputy minister, Mr. Walter S. Woods; the director, Mr. Murchison, and Colonel Parish, M.E.I.C., of Montreal, a reputable engineer in every way.

Mr. FLEMING: Is it the intention that that committee shall inspect all the houses?

Mr. MACKENZIE: That would take exactly one year and I think it will be agreed that our first duty is to put these houses in first-class shape as soon as possible.

Mr. BROOKS: May I ask—

Mr. SPEAKER: Order. These continuous interruptions are absolutely out of order and I would ask hon. members to abide by the rules.

Mr. CASSELMAN: So is the minister's conduct out of order. He is not on the speakers' list at all.

Mr. GARDINER: That would be very nice if you could get away with it.

Mr. CASSELMAN: He is getting away with it.

Mr. GARDINER: I mean getting away with charges and no answer being made.

Mr. MACKENZIE: I have been as frank and explicit as I could be in regard to the two features of this housing situation: first, defects in construction and the necessity for replacing some of the material that was used, such as soft wood and other materials which were used in these houses which were built in a hurry. That work will be done during this

summer. As to drainage there may be engineering features which will make the completion of that work come a little later.

Mr. BROOKS: Are the same contractors being used to make the repairs?

Mr. MACKENZIE: In one or two cases, but generally speaking, no. We are trying to get experts who are entirely outside the old organization and I am receiving every assistance from the Minister of Reconstruction. The two fundamental features that we are dealing with are, first, the repairing and reconditioning and putting into first-class shape of all these houses wherever they are throughout Canada, and seeing that wet basements and conditions of dampness caused by faulty drainage or otherwise are corrected as soon as possible. The second is the request which has come from various sources for a royal commission. The only feature with which a royal commission could deal would be in my judgment, the question of a cut in the capital cost. If we were to ask a royal commission to examine the physical condition of these houses it would simply be delaying their completion and delaying the furnishing of the amenities to which these settlers are entitled.

I have been very frank with the house, as I should be, in dealing with this whole situation. I have held nothing back. I have told the house that the construction work was hurried, and, further, that it was impeded by a lack of materials. We all know what the material situation was in Canada and the difficulties that were experienced in getting housing outside altogether of this project. The faults are being corrected at once and we believe that these houses, when completed, will be a social pleasure to the occupants.

This is my final word. Let us not forget that our main interest in this thing, the main interest of every one of us in the house, is not the pointing out of faults but going along together along a trail of twenty-five years with the servicemen, and I invite the cooperation of every party in the house in doing all we can to ensure that our veterans shall enjoy the happiness, security, prosperity and environment which they so richly deserve.

Mr. GREEN: Is there to be any cut in the cost to the soldier?

Mr. MACKENZIE: No, not further than the conditional grant and the equalization adjustment under the order in council.

Mr. ARMAND CLOUTIER (Drummond-Arthabaska): Mr. Speaker, I have listened with deep interest to the remarks and exposé of the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Mac-