

Supply—National Revenue

under which these homes were constructed—not as a profit making enterprise by the government or Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, but to meet the need of those who offered their lives in the last world war—in view of the fact that the government did not see fit to honour this promise, and in view of the fact that this matter has not yet been referred to the veterans affairs committee, though I hope it will be, if we cannot receive the most complete and factual information on this matter this afternoon then this estimate should not pass.

The estimate should not pass unless the government is prepared to refer this matter to what I consider a most responsible body, the veterans affairs committee, representative of all parties in parliament, I believe composed almost 100 per cent of veterans who are concerned with veterans' problems and welfare under all departments of government. I suggest that this is the logical procedure, in order that we can proceed with the other business of the house. In conclusion, I hope we shall have a complete, factual, realistic, honest report on policy, expenditures and revenues on the Fraserview project from the first day of construction in 1949 to date.

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Chairman, this lone item of \$216,000 in the estimates for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation for the fiscal year 1964-65 is a very modest one, having regard to the nature and extent of the corporation's work. I would point out that the individual items which make up this \$216,000 do not come within any of the remarks made by the hon. member for Yukon and the hon. member for Vancouver South.

Mr. Winch: We did not hear anything from the hon. member for Vancouver South.

Mr. Nicholson: But I do welcome the fact that the estimates come before parliament so that these hon. members and others have an opportunity of commenting on the activities of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and on housing and allied programs of our country. I think I should add that I do not intend to make any detailed reply, except on the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation aspect of the Fraserview project. I did make a very comprehensive statement, or at least what several members, including the hon. member for Burnaby-Coquitlam said was a very comprehensive statement on the activities of the corporation when I introduced the bill which led to the amendment of the National Housing Act.

[Mr. Winch.]

His memory must be failing him, or else he was not in the chamber on that occasion, or the hon. member for Yukon would never have made some of the statements he made here today. I have sent for a copy of the remarks I made on that occasion, and I would ask one of the pages to deliver it to the hon. member for Yukon because I think he will see that almost every point on which he spoke with the exception of better housing for Indians, was dealt with in these earlier remarks of mine.

Mr. Nielsen: I was here.

Mr. Nicholson: I should also like to refer briefly to the Murray report, and I would point out to the committee that 75 per cent of the cost of that report was paid for by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. That report was commissioned early in 1962 and it refers largely to the conditions that existed prior to 1962.

I would also point out to the hon. member for Yukon that the president of the Ontario association, Mr. Freiday, who assumed responsibility for preparation of the report, came to my office with Professor Murray. On that occasion there was also present the provincial minister of economics and development, whose government paid the other 25 per cent of the cost. We were complimented by Mr. Freiday and by Professor Murray upon having anticipated many of the points made in the report and upon having covered them in the legislation we introduced last May, supplemented by the legislation introduced in the legislature of the province of Ontario. There have been several complimentary references to the government in connection with the actions taken in anticipation of the criticisms contained in the report.

Mr. Nielsen: I compliment the minister, too.

Mr. Nicholson: Thank you. There was another point which the hon. member made this afternoon and which I think calls for some comment. As I announced in this house in late September, I think, we held a conference in Halifax—it was referred to as a symposium—attended not only by several provincial ministers and some deputies but by more than 50 municipal representatives. We discussed the amendments to the act and the possibilities under the new legislation. When we convened not only the Halifax conference but the subsequent conference in St. John's I was acting, upon a suggestion which was made here in the house by one of the Toronto members, I think it was the hon. member for Danforth, who in the course