

*Corporate and Consumer Affairs*

is merely a brief article appearing in a newspaper, or a leaflet which is sent to a householder in the mail, I do not think very much will be accomplished. I suggest to the minister that when he comes up with the result of the research into some of the various commodities, the information should be advertised across the country on a popular public affairs program, which the people watch, so that they can be made very much aware of what has been developed by the research carried on by this consumer affairs branch.

As I said, I shall be very brief. I do not intend to say very much more. This clause in particular deals in generalities rather than in specifics. In all probability the minister and his officials when drafting the bill had certain specific things in mind. I only wish that he had been more specific in outlining just what types of research will be carried out and how he hopes to inform the public of the results of the research which is carried out.

• (9:40 p.m.)

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** Shall clause 6 carry?

**Some hon. Members:** Carried.

**The Assistant Deputy Chairman:** Shall clause 7 carry?

**Mr. Watson (Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie):** Mr. Chairman, I have something to say on clause 6. I should like to put on the record some suggestions which I think should be made in relation to clause 6 (c) of this bill. Under clause 6 (c) the minister will be given the power to promote and encourage the institution of practices or conduct tending to the better protection of the Canadian consumer, and so on. He will be able to co-operate with provincial governments or agencies as well as, I presume, various federal agencies. In this respect I believe some specific suggestions should be made. I suggest that the new ministry, in full co-operation with C.M.H.C., take immediate steps to assure greater consumer protection in the field of housing.

I hope the new ministry, acting in its capacity as watchdog over the interests of the consumer will, either by direct pressure on C.M.H.C. or by recourse to the publicity and information supplying resources which will undoubtedly be at its disposal under clause 6(1) (c) and (d) of the new bill, be able to persuade the public, and through the public C.M.H.C.—if this is necessary—that new

measures and conditions must become an integral part of future housing developments if the house buying consumer is to have full value for his investment dollar and adequate long term protection for his investment.

Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has not over the years taken enough social initiative. It has fulfilled its legal responsibilities but has not gone out of its way to impose upon the communities benefiting from its lending funds the aesthetic standards which we should regard as minimal in any housing development. It would be a simple matter for C.M.H.C. to insist that it would not allow its funds to be lent to any development unless provision was made for putting all telephone and electricity lines underground.

Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation should also insist that adequate recreational facilities, more especially parkland and playground areas, be included in any development receiving its funds. If C.M.H.C. does not soon include these requirements as a condition for extension of its loans, I suggest to the new ministry that it should intervene on behalf of our home buying public.

[*Translation*]

I should like to add that the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is remiss in its duty of lending money to municipalities to install sewage treatment systems and water purification plants without giving them, at the same time, advice on the most efficient and less costly methods. In my constituency, the town of Sainte-Philomène received a loan from the corporation of over \$500,000, 25 per cent of which represented a federal government subsidy. Unfortunately for this town, the system installed on the recommendation of private engineers whose fees were a percentage of the total cost of the project, was needlessly complicated. In using the "open pit" method, the municipal authorities of Sainte-Philomène could have achieved the same results at half the cost.

The corporation is mistaken if they consider that their responsibilities end when funds are loaned. It is an inexcusable waste of public moneys to lend funds to install a system twice as expensive as others just as efficient and with a lower cost of operation. When the municipal authorities of a town or a city try to borrow money to install a sewage treatment system or a purification plant, the corporation should provide advice and the services of their own experts.