

Government Orders

sticking to rules of relevance in relation to the Canadian environmental assessment act.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): I am sure the Minister of State (Housing) will want to address the subject matter of the bill.

[*English*]

Mr. Redway: Mr. Speaker, I am so pleased that the hon. member for Skeena is paying close attention to my remarks. I know he is well aware that every housing development entails a whole question of environmental assessment. I know he is well aware of that, and I cannot believe for a moment that a man like the hon. member who is concerned with the environment and environmental assessment, and who is concerned with the legislation before the House, would not for a moment be aware of the fact that all of this entails the environment and environmental assessment.

When CMHC, or for that matter any land owner, wants to build a house, wants to do anything in the way of developing housing, one of the major concerns and factors that have to be taken into account is the question of the environment and the impact of that sort of development on the environment, particularly when the land is owned by the federal government and the federal government will be doing something about developing that land for housing. Certainly the hon. member would agree that the environmental assessment legislation currently before the House is something that should be considered in a case like that. I am surprised that he would even question it for the slightest moment.

After 1950 we had a situation where CMHC developed part of this land it needed on the Aviation Parkway. Now it has turned its attention to developing the rest of it for a badly needed housing subdivision. Of course, that development impacts on the environment and we have to do something about making sure that the environment is protected. That is exactly what CMHC has tried to do with the land on the Aviation Parkway.

That land does not just impact and affect CMHC and the federal government. There are a number of other governmental bodies which also are impacted by that particular piece of land. Some of these are the Regional

Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton, the city of Ottawa, the city of Gloucester, and the National Capital Commission. So, there are a lot of governmental bodies involved in making decisions over what can be done with that land, whether it can be used for housing, and whether or not the whole question of the environment and an environmental assessment of that land needs to be done and what kind of an assessment needs to be done.

As a good governmental organization, the federal housing agency, CMHC, has in fact proceeded with an environmental assessment. It has retained a firm of consultants to carry out an environmental assessment of that particular piece of land for the purpose of putting together a draft plan of subdivision, which would have to be approved partly by the city of Ottawa because it is partly in the city of Ottawa, partly by the city of Gloucester because it is partly in the city of Gloucester, partly by the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton because, of course, it is in the region and, of course, partly by the National Capital Commission because it is in the national capital area.

There are a lot of different bodies that are involved in this whole question of the environmental assessment of that land, if it is to be used for housing.

CMHC has retained the firm of Winters and Associates to carry out an environmental appraisal and to assess the tolerance of that particular piece of land and its environment for the purpose of developing housing on that site.

In fact, it is interesting to note that in this day and age, a careful observation is carried out on a piece of land like that by the residents in the area and by various environmental organizations, all of whom are keeping a careful eye on land such as that to make sure that there is an environmental assessment carried out and that that environmental assessment complies with all the rules and regulations that are in place.

In fact, the Ottawa Field Naturalists Club is one of those which is keeping that particular piece of property under very close observation. As one who belongs to the Field Naturalists Club of Metropolitan Toronto, I have great sympathy for the fact that it is keeping a close eye on this particular situation. In fact, it has raised with me a number of concerns about the unique qualities of that