

National Housing Act

for C.M.H.C. loans. The officials of the Corporation seem to adopt the attitude that the people in these small communities should avail themselves of the facilities in the larger districts, rather than establish their own. I should like the Minister to keep in mind the fact that our towns and rural municipalities are underwriting these losses. I should also like to emphasize again that the Saskatchewan Provincial Government's supervisor of low rental housing was of the opinion that there would be no objection on their part to a senior citizens home being built in this particular locality. I do not want to belabour this matter much more because I am sure the Minister is aware of this problem. Now that there is to be an increase in the maximum amount of all loans from \$6 billion to \$8½ billion I trust that the Minister will find it possible to approve this loan.

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, as the Minister knows I was very happy to sit in on the housing symposium held in Vancouver last January. I was as pleased as I know he was to see the active interest of many of the municipal leaders in the Province of British Columbia in that symposium. The more recent proposals with respect to urban renewal have certainly sparked a great deal of interest not only in large metropolitan centres but also in some of the smaller urban communities in British Columbia and, I gather, in many other parts of Canada.

I felt I should like to participate briefly in the discussion of the resolution and to suggest that the housing picture in Canada presents an ever changing and ever challenging problem. I am not going to quarrel with the assertion made a few moments ago by the hon. Member for Hamilton West that no Government has done more than the present one to encourage home ownership by Canadians. I would simply point out, however, that his loud assertion does not really prove anything, because he did not support it with any comparisons or any suggestion as to how much any Government had done in this field.

In spite of what has been done and in spite of the proposals in the resolution to provide additional funds, the fact still remains that for the average Canadian family the provision of adequate housing remains one of the most difficult, expensive and at times distressing problems faced by such families. I am quite happy to say that I support the proposals in the resolution for the provision of increased funds but I would expect that not even the Minister will claim that the contents of the

resolution will solve the problems of all Canadians in respect of the provision of adequate housing.

A good many Members who have participated in the discussion of this resolution, and in other discussions on housing we have had in recent months, have been concerned about the problem of urban housing, particularly in the large metropolitan areas. I for one am glad to welcome any action taken in this regard and to support the efforts of any Members of the House which will have the result of eliminating or improving upon the unsightly conditions of blight in respect of housing that are all too evident to any of us who travel throughout Canada.

The matter I should like to bring forward is one of current interest and concern in my own province, but before I launch into it I should like to refer briefly to a situation which came to my attention during a visit I paid some time ago to the City of Moncton, when a certain event was taking place in that area of the Province of New Brunswick. While I was there I happened to notice in the press that the Minister was going to appear within a day or so to open officially a public housing project in the City of Moncton. I raise this point because reference is made in the resolution to a considerable increase in the allocation of funds for public housing programs.

I do not know what the Minister's reaction was when he saw this housing project in the City of Moncton, but I only hope he was as shocked by it as I was. Quite frankly, I do not recall ever seeing a more ugly housing development in my life, and I felt that if this was the best we could do in the field of developing public housing in Canada the situation was a sorry one indeed. I know that quite a number of people who had already built homes in the adjacent area expressed concern to me about the depressing effect this particular project was going to have upon the value of their properties. Whatever may be the explanation, it was quite obvious to me that somebody had been entirely too tightfisted with respect to this particular public housing program, and that what we were doing was creating something that certainly could be a slum tomorrow, if not a slum today.

I looked at some of these houses with three or four bedrooms where undoubtedly large families would live. The bedrooms were little boxes. The houses were crowded into such