

it does something to assist in this very difficult problem. For my part, if there is any way to help the province to do anything to assist in meeting a difficult problem, I mean to do it.

Mr. GRAYDON: Call a conference of the provinces first. That would be the first thing.

Mr. McILRAITH: I would point out to the hon. member for Peel that he would do well to read that bill, and then to read the statements made through the press at certain meetings of a party with which he is familiar. He will find quite a divergence. I hope that the press reports are right, and that the bill is all wrong. Sometimes when I read the bill and then read the statements incidental thereto, upon introduction in the Ontario house on April 1—and I do not know whether that date has any significance or not—I can only hope that the bill is all wrong and that the newspaper statements are all right.

In any event, the point I am seeking to make is that it is a mistake for any member of this House of Commons to think a maximum by way of production of houses in Canada can be achieved without continual co-operation of the provinces, the dominion and the municipalities.

Mr. GRAYDON: Why do you not call a dominion-provincial conference and have the whole thing cleaned up? That is at the bottom of it all.

Mr. McILRAITH: The hon. member for Peel persists in asking me that question—and it may have been asked thoughtlessly or, on the other hand, seriously. And if he asks the question seriously, I would ask him only to seek to recall to his mind the experience of the last dominion-provincial conference and the actions of certain leaders from certain provinces at that conference, and since.

Mr. ROSS (Souris): Including Nova Scotia.

Mr. JACKMAN: And officers of the federal government.

Mr. McILRAITH: I am delighted to note the interest of hon. members opposite from the province of Ontario in this matter. I am delighted, too, that they have pressed me a bit on it this afternoon, because it will be interesting to note that they do not come back at me with this bill, which is the actual legislative record of the provincial government of Ontario, which they so ardently support. They do not say anything about that. But they do come back at me with all sorts of other questions.

Mr. BENTLEY: Do not judge Canada by Ontario.

Mr. HARTT: That is right.

Mr. GRAYDON: The only strange part of it was that your party supported it. Did it not? That is not easily explained away.

Mr. McILRAITH: Perhaps it is difficult to explain away; but I would just say in reply to that that they must have taken the word of the one who introduced it.

Mr. GRAYDON: It must have been agreed to by your own party. That was Farquhar Oliver's bill, the same as anybody else's.

Mr. McILRAITH: They relied on the remarks of the minister introducing it. I have those remarks here, if the hon. member wishes to hear them. But I would just point out to hon. members from Ontario, that in Ontario today veterans who are in need of housing are invited to make, and in fact are making applications for assistance in getting loans for the construction of houses. There may be some indirect way of providing those loans to the veterans under that provincial bill. But certainly there is no direct way under the bill. It just is not there. Those veterans are making application—

Mr. GRAYDON: Farquhar Oliver supported it.

Mr. McILRAITH: Yes, I know; and the hon. member for Peel may interject all he wishes, but he cannot get away from the seriousness of the position that a few thousand veterans in one province of this country are being invited to make application for direct loans, and are making those applications, and the authority for making them may not exist.

Mr. GRAYDON: And Drew will give it to them; don't worry.

Mr. McILRAITH: That cannot be explained away by the light, flippant remarks of the hon. member for Peel. It is far more serious than that; and, so far as I am concerned, I will content myself by saying that I hope there is some indirect way of seeing that those loans are made available. For my part I mean to do everything I can or of which I know, by way of co-operation, to get out of the bill any value there is in it, for the benefit of the people who need houses.

Mr. GRAYDON: Why raise obstacles to it, then?