

Interim Supply

made any major change as far as availability of low-cost housing money is concerned.

Mr. Green: Mr. Chairman, I shall be very glad to have the officers of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation investigate this particular case but it happens that I have received a statement from the president this afternoon which reads:

The fifth week of operations under the agency arrangement was highlighted by a record volume of approvals and indications that both British Columbia and the maritimes are now taking fuller advantage of the facilities afforded.

This has only been in effect for five weeks.

The value of loans processed during the week—

That is, the fifth week.

—was in excess of \$13,500,000 for 1,396 units. This brings the total for the period September 9 to October 11 to more than \$34,100,000 for 3,440 units.

I point out to the hon. member for Comox-Alberni that works out to an average loan of less than \$10,000.

In addition, there still appears to be a potential of approximately \$67,500,000, which comprises requests for loan amount or requests for approval in our offices, or applications still in the hands of approved lenders.

That would indicate that already the total is likely to be over \$100 million, which I regard as a very satisfactory showing in view of the short time the plan has been in effect.

Mr. Barnett: The statement made by the minister is quite an interesting one. Certainly it shows that some advantage is being taken of the plan. But I notice that no reference is made in the statement, nor have I seen any direct references in the press—there may have been some which escaped my notice—at what sort of income level the money is available. The question arises in my mind whether the money is going to people who are in a financial position far above the particular people I mentioned whose income is at an average level of \$2 an hour. As I understand the announcement made by the minister before the house opened, the purpose of the new proposal was to make money available to people in the lower income categories who had not been able to take advantage of the provisions put into operation by the previous administration.

Mr. Green: That is correct.

Mr. Barnett: I should like the minister to give us some indication of how far down the scale of annual or hourly income this money is being applied in the case of the applications now being approved. If in fact the proposal is making it easier for people in the lower income brackets to secure their

own houses, I am certainly glad to see it, but the information that has come to me is very similar to the kind of complaint I heard about the availability of housing money under the previous administration.

Mr. Green: I believe the plan has brought about a big reduction in the income level. I admit it would be much better if we could get it even lower. We are getting it down just as low as we can and it certainly has been reduced a great deal over what it was earlier in the year.

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Chairman: Shall the resolution carry?

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Chairman, I should like a standing vote taken.

Motion (Mr. Fleming) agreed to: Yeas, 147; nays, 0.

Resolution reported and concurred in.

WAYS AND MEANS

INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon. Donald M. Fleming (Minister of Finance) moved that the house go into committee of ways and means.

Motion agreed to and the house went into committee, Mr. Courtemanche in the chair.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. Fleming moved:

Resolved, that towards making good the supply granted to Her Majesty on account of certain expenses of the public service for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1958, the sum of \$305,222,335.25 be granted out of the consolidated revenue fund of Canada, as set forth in the resolution concurred in this day in the committee of supply.

The Chairman: Shall the resolution carry?

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): As this resolution is in effect a companion one to the resolution that was passed just before the recess, I would suggest to the Minister of Finance and some of his colleagues that it gives them an opportunity to answer some of the questions that were put to them from this side of the house today and which have not yet been answered. Perhaps I might draw the attention of the Minister of Finance to some of those questions but before I do so I should like to offer this comment.

It is interesting to us on this side of the house who in the last session supported the estimates that were placed before parliament