

and need not wait until the legislation was brought down. He then gave some description of the financing of the plan for housing. In view of all this, I intimated in effect that there was little use in talking about a new housing programme unless the question of priorities was first cleared up. There was no satisfactory answer to that. But all across this country people, many of whom I know, believed that the government was now opening new avenues to greater housing accommodation by way of finance. If I may say so, Mr. Speaker, in view of the parliamentary assistant's statement now that there is no desire to encourage housing—his remarks rather indicated that it is to be discouraged—why was not this statement of his made concurrently with the statement made by the Minister of Finance? Patently the two statements should have been made together, because made separately they only confuse the issue and bring about conflicting opinions throughout the country, as well as laying the government open to the charge that their departments are not co-operating in respect to this matter. I ask the parliamentary assistant to clear up that point, if he will.

Hon. T. A. CRERAR (Minister of Mines and Resources): Perhaps I might answer my hon. friend.

Mr. GRAYDON: Is another department entering into this?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no question now before the chair. The discussion is out of order, but I think an answer might be given by the minister to the question asked.

Mr. CRERAR: I can satisfy the curiosity of my hon. friend.

Mr. GRAYDON: It is not curiosity. It is the situation that is curious.

Mr. CRERAR: If it is not curiosity, his remark that another department was coming into this was very inept.

Mr. GRAYDON: Another minister is speaking on the matter.

Mr. CRERAR: The hon. gentleman who leads the opposition endeavoured to score a point from a basis that does not exist.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. GRAYDON: It does exist.

Mr. CRERAR: The hon. member for York-Sunbury would be well advised to keep quiet until I finish my statement.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): You cannot lecture me, or anybody like you.

Mr. CRERAR: The first point the leader of the opposition makes is, why was not the statement which the parliamentary assistant made to-day made when the Minister of Finance made his statement.

Mr. GRAYDON: Right.

Mr. CRERAR: If my hon. friend will read carefully the statement of the Minister of Finance, he will find that there is not a very good foundation for the interpretation that he put upon it to-day.

Mr. GRAYDON: Has the minister the statement there?

Mr. CRERAR: No, and my hon. friend has not got it either, and he should have it before he comments on it.

Mr. GRAYDON: You should have it before you interpret it.

Mr. CRERAR: In the second place the situation has changed in the interval since the Minister of Finance made his statement.

Mr. HANSON (York-Sunbury): In what respect?

Mr. CRERAR: In that there is a greater demand for lumber going overseas than was anticipated at that time.

Mr. GRAYDON: We anticipated that when we questioned the government at the time.

Mr. CRERAR: Members of the government can scarcely be expected to have the prescience of hon. members opposite.

Mr. GRAYDON: I do not think anybody accuses them of that.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver Centre): I would hope not.

Mr. CRERAR: I do not think there is very much to the point my hon. friend has raised.

Mr. GRAYDON: Certainly nothing has been cleared up with respect to it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order. I cannot allow this discussion to proceed further on the orders of the day.

Mr. A. R. ADAMSON (York West): In view of the statement of the parliamentary assistant, may I ask him a question with reference to a conference which I understand was held between wartime housing and the Soldiers' Dependents Society in Toronto with regard to building one hundred units for soldiers' dependents. Is that to be proceeded with?

Mr. CHEVRIER: I am not familiar with the conference to which my hon. friend refers.