

National Housing Act

Star will be only too glad to send to anyone, as they have to me, a reprint of the articles by MacEachern. I am sure some of the older people in the constituency would appreciate the effort that was made by this young chap to find out what sort of quarters could be obtained.

I read a couple of extracts the other night, and I shall refer to a couple more. Here is one:

Off to one side was a little cubbyhole of a kitchen where an old rusted stove leered out at me.

The owner concentrated on the bathroom—it was a huge bathroom, almost as big as the main room—as the apartment's main selling point.

He made passing reference to the kitchen, the view from the tiny window (the back of a used-car lot) and the quiet neighbourhood, but extolled at great length the virtues of a private bathroom for an old man like my grandfather. "Of course, he'll have to go upstairs to take a bath but he won't mind that," he said.

Our inspection was interrupted by a great whirring noise. It shook the walls and the ash tray on the table rattled.

"Oh, that's just a printing press in the next room," he explained. "Your grandfather won't have to worry about that; it's usually broken down."

I asked him how much he wanted for the room. "Well," he said, "if your grandfather's willing to pay for the gas, I can give it to him for \$6.50."

I told him I'd talk it over with grandpa and come back the next day if he decided to take it. Outside again the fresh air felt good.

Here was a place on George street:

I almost broke my leg when it crashed through a rotten step. The windows of the house were broken and it looked deserted, but I knocked anyway.

The dirtiest and thinnest man I had ever seen came to the door. He had a ring of egg yolk around his mouth and what I could see of his flesh was so caked with filth I'm sure nothing short of a skinning could have cleaned him.

The room was just as dirty; the floor was black and crusted, the curtains were torn and hung squint-eyed on the windows and the pattern on the wallpaper had been obscured long ago.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Did hon. members give unanimous consent to have this pamphlet put on *Hansard*?

Some hon. Members: No.

Mr. Speaker: Then perhaps the hon. member could now give us his views.

Mr. Nicholson: If I had your permission I should like to finish this sentence.

Mr. Studer: It was a socialist house with a socialist in it.

Mr. Argue: That is the best noise I have heard from the cabinet benches in a long time.

Mr. Nicholson: In all seriousness I think if any member of this house would spend two weeks in any city in Canada trying to find

[Mr. Nicholson.]

living quarters for \$20, and then have money left for food, there would not be any interruptions such as I have had this evening.

Mr. Studer: What is Saskatchewan doing about it?

Mr. Ellis: More than any other province.

Mr. Studer: They build theatres.

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, I realize that hon. members on the other side are rather sensitive about the shocking conditions in regard to housing that exist in every part of Canada.

Mr. Byrne: And particularly in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Nicholson: I think it is not surprising when they read again—

Mr. Byrne: We will do our own reading.

Mr. Nicholson: —the Curtis report of 1944 and find the picture presented of the brave new world we were to have, the clearing of our slums and the subsidized housing we were going to provide for our heroes.

Mr. Studer: That is what Douglas said in 1944.

Mr. Nicholson: We have done very little. The minister boasted about the fact that Canada has the best record in the world—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Nicholson: —so far as house construction is concerned.

Mr. Studer: Per capita.

Mr. Nicholson: Per capita. The minister is wrong, as is the hon. member for Swift Current-Maple Creek (Mr. Studer).

Mr. Studer: More socialist statistics.

Mr. Ellis: Why not make a speech of your own on housing?

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Speaker, before going to Germany about two years ago I was given, by the German embassy, a copy of a book entitled "Germany Reports". I am sure that anyone who has been to Germany since the war will agree with me that an amazing job has been done in rebuilding the devastated cities.

Mr. Byrne: Not a socialist government over there.

Mr. Nicholson: I have not suggested it was, but I am about to give the minister some information that he should examine before he goes out as far on a limb as he did this afternoon.

Mr. Argue: He does not like to get it sawn off.