

Inquiries of the Ministry

Mr. Fair: Then I need not quote the article, but in effect the minister stated that at least seventy-five per cent of the people of Canada are Liberals at heart.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Fair: Then he went on to say, "They are ours for the asking; let's go out and get them." Based on that, I wonder if the minister would care to venture a guess as to what will be the success of his party in the province of Alberta at the next election.

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Reconstruction and Supply): After visiting that convention, Mr. Speaker, I feel that I was a little modest in my estimate.

HOUSINGSTATEMENT AS TO COMPLETION OF PROJECT
IN ALBERTA

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert H. Winters (Minister of Reconstruction and Supply): I should like to reply to a question asked on Monday last by the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Johnston), as to the steps being taken to see that the houses of the Bow River Construction Company at Calgary are completed.

The answer is that although the lending institution and Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation are mortgagees only and are not parties to the contractual relationship between the builder and the veteran, every effort has been made to find a solution which will allow this project, now in default, to proceed. In the case of owners in possession, an offer has been made to increase the mortgages so that they may pay the liens and complete the houses. Where veterans take advantage of this offer it should be possible to effect a satisfactory solution. For those not yet in possession because the houses are incomplete, the lending institution has offered to buy the purchasers' equity.

Although the houses cannot be completed until financial arrangements are made by the purchasers, every effort is being made to find a way to bring the project to completion.

Mr. A. L. Smith (Calgary West): If I may ask the minister a supplementary question, I should like to know who appointed the contractor and what inquiry was made with respect to his ability, either by practice or his financial position, to carry out the project?

Mr. Winters: I believe a similar question is on the order paper; at any rate I will take this as notice.

Mr. Smith (Calgary West): Can the minister not tell me now?

[Mr. Speaker.]

PRIZE MONEY

DISTRIBUTION BETWEEN NAVY AND AIR FORCE

On the orders of the day:

Mr. E. D. Fulton (Kamloops): Will the Minister of National Defence, either now or at an early date, make a statement as to the distribution of the \$3,000,000 in prize money resulting from the disposition of enemy vessels captured by the navy during the war? I may say I have information that there are a number of complaints with regard to—

Some hon. Members: Order.

Hon. Brooke Claxton (Minister of National Defence): I can answer the hon. member by saying the government has decided to bring before parliament a measure to provide for the distribution of prize money received from the pool of prize money obtained from the capture of enemy ships by the nations of the British commonwealth. The share of the total pool which will be received by Canada and payable in Canada will be divided in the proportion of 68 per cent to the navy, and 32 per cent to the air force, which, as hon. members know, participated in the destruction of many enemy ships. The exact form of the measure to be brought before parliament has not yet been determined, because this decision has just been arrived at; but it will provide for the payment of the sums of money to the Royal Canadian naval benevolent fund, in respect of the navy's share, and to the Royal Canadian Air Force benevolent fund in respect of the air force's share.

Some hon. Members: Where does the army come in?

Mr. Claxton: The army did not share in the destruction of any ships at sea that we know of; their work was on land.

Mr. G. R. Pearkes (Nanaimo): Will the minister consider making a contribution from this money to the army benevolent fund, because of the fact that the army captured many of the bases and airfields from which the air force and the navy were able to operate?

Mr. Claxton: No, Mr. Speaker; no such consideration will be given.

COARSE GRAINSQUESTION AS TO MEASURE FOR MARKETING BY
WHEAT BOARD

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Ronald Moore (Churchill): I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Trade and Commerce or his parliamentary assistant. In view of the fact that the government passed legislation in 1948 to provide for the marketing of coarse grains through the wheat board,