

Municipal Development and Loan Board

gage and Housing Corporation can do this type of work.

Therefore I suggest very strongly that the minister can get the same efficiency and put this legislation into operation immediately by following the suggestion made by the hon. member for Simcoe North, in getting rid of the board and turning the job over to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The board may have been necessary if the federal government was running everything, but now that it has been turned over to the provinces the board is absolutely unnecessary.

Mr. Francis: I would like to speak against the proposal put forward by the hon. member for Simcoe North. I personally could not accept the suggestion that this program could be administered as an extra sideline by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, or whoever might be handling it in the Department of Labour, as a small addition to the winter works program. The purpose of C.M.H.C. is quite clearly to be the instrument of a national housing policy, and it has a great deal of work to do.

I do not believe this program of aid to municipalities for sewerage treatment belongs with C.M.H.C. Such a program could be even more effective, given the proper staff and proper direction. With regard to the winter works program I think most of us appreciate the virtues and limitations of the approach made to it, and certainly anyone who has had experience at the municipal level knows that unemployment does not stop on any given predetermined date from coast to coast all across Canada.

The technical problems of the projects have to be assessed, and I cannot agree with the hon. member for Ontario in saying that there is no problem in selecting the projects. In fact I would like to say a word or two on clause 7 with regard to the criteria in selection of the projects. I am sure that, even with the agreement with the provinces, there will be room for a great deal of discussion in working out the most satisfactory type of program which will develop under this legislation. I know there is a statutory limit in dollars in the legislation before us, but I for one hope at some future date this program will grow as experience develops under the board, which I think is the appropriate means of administering such legislation.

Mr. Chatterton: Obviously the hon. member has not had much experience with the practical operations of C.M.H.C. If he had he would know that the performance of the corporation's staff in the operation of the municipalities' sewerage program could not be improved. Is he suggesting that there should be a separate department to handle the sewerage

[Mr. Hamilton.]

program? This is almost a duplication of the type of work they are equipped and trained to do. If the hon. gentleman had his way we would be creating a new department for every operation.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Even with the bill as amended I cannot understand why the government still insists on using such a superfluity of wording in section 2(d) which states:

"municipality" means

(i) an incorporated city, metropolitan authority, town, village, township, district or rural municipality or other incorporated municipal body however designated,

One of the most important dispensations of civic authority and one of the oldest, even older than parliament itself, is the county, and I ask why the word "county" is not mentioned in this bill?

Counties form one of the most eligible and soundest classes of borrowers in the country, and I would imagine their omission is an oversight. Probably the minister will explain that the wording in lines 18 and 19, "or other incorporated municipal body however designated" covers counties, but why not specify them? I know of several cases where counties will be prospective users of this legislation.

(Translation):

Mr. Paul: I should like to say that I agree with the remarks of the hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. Alkenbrack).

If we consider the provisions of the municipal code of the province of Quebec, we find in it that the county councils are recognized as municipal bodies made up of different municipal corporations located in specific territories. It often happens that these county councils have to settle problems which arise between municipalities and I feel that the hon. member who spoke before me has rightly called the attention of the house to this particular problem.

I wonder why the Acting Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp) could not insert in the definition which is found in paragraph 2 of the act, the words: "county council". In my opinion, it would help make this act more effective and it would not affect the objectives that the government has in mind in moving this bill.

(Text):

Mr. Nugent: Mr. Chairman—

The Deputy Chairman: Order. May I remind hon. members that the question before the committee is not the whole of clause 2, but an amendment to clause 2.

Mr. Nugent: On this clause, Mr. Chairman, I was interested in the remarks of the hon. member for Qu'Appelle. I do not pretend to