

to their work. As the hon. member pointed out, if a real effort were made to get some of our people out to the vacant houses in the country, many of which are beautiful houses and well built, our situation might be relieved.

Mr. FRASER: This afternoon the minister gave the hon. member for Lincoln figures as to the cost of housing in the different areas. I believe he said it ranged from \$4,000 to \$4,200. Were those figures the estimated cost of the houses, or did that cost include what is put in the contracts for wartime housing, namely, rental at the rate of five per cent per month of the replacement value of such diesel and gasoline equipment plant, and so forth, which is used by the contractor? Is that extra on top of the estimated cost?

Mr. HOWE: The estimated cost I gave was the cost of the completed house.

Mr. FRASER: Completed, including the rental of those machines, or just the estimate?

Mr. HOWE: I am told that is correct; that is the contract price. The cost of rental of equipment would be extra.

Mr. FRASER: The cost of the rental equipment is extra, five per cent per month of the replacement value of diesel and gasoline plant and three per cent per month of the replacement value thereof for such other items of building plant owned by the contractor or allied firm. Even if they have those machines on the job and are not using them, they are paid for rental.

Mr. HOWE: Yes. Perhaps I can give my hon. friend the make-up of that one at Peterborough.

Mr. FRASER: I have it here.

Mr. HOWE: Land acquisition was \$100; legal expenses, \$200; sewer house connections, \$7,500; water house connections, \$7,500; walks, \$5,000; staking of lots, \$1,000; grading, \$5,000; landscaping, \$5,000; building contract, \$325,000; supervising architect, \$3,250; heating stoves and cooking stoves, \$7,000; special services, \$2,500. There was a contingent item of \$25,000. That built up to \$394,050. Therefore the cost of the individual house was \$3,940.50.

Mr. BOUCHER: That was the price as of 1942, rather than as of the present time?

Mr. HOWE: May 26, 1945.

Mr. FRASER: What was the item for the rental of equipment?

Mr. HOWE: The rental of equipment would be a very small item in comparison with the size of the contract.

[Mr. MacNicol.]

Mr. SKEY: I have three questions I should like to put to the minister. Does Wartime Housing intend to build more than 7,000 houses?

Mr. HOWE: All I can say to that is that the intention of the government will be made known in due course. I do not think my hon. friend can ask me to predict what we shall do.

Mr. SKEY: The estimates are for 7,000 houses.

Mr. HOWE: Yes.

Mr. SKEY: Is compensation to be paid to municipalities which have invested considerable funds in Wartime Housing projects? I refer to the item which the hon. member for Eglinton brought out this afternoon when he mentioned that the property on which wartime housing was built in municipalities was obtained from the municipalities for \$1 per lot. But there are other items. I understand that the municipality of Toronto has spent \$1,100,000 for which they can expect no compensation up to the present time, and that they will have to spend another \$300,000. Some of the items included in this estimate, which is accurate according to the statement obtained from Toronto to-night, are the conversion of St. George's barracks, \$45,000, and Little Norway, \$80,000. Will any compensation be paid to this municipality which I cite, and as regards many other municipalities which must have had a similar experience, will any compensation be made for the moneys which they have expended on wartime housing projects and from which they can now expect no return? I might point out that the government expect a full return from its expenditures on its recent wartime housing project, not only a return on capital but a return of interest on its investment.

Mr. HOWE: I am not familiar with the construction projects in Toronto. They are rather outside the scope of wartime houses. Under what arrangements they were made I do not know. I presume that Toronto, like Wartime Housing, is collecting rents for its accommodation. I presume that the city used the same judgment in the type of project it would undertake that we used.

Mr. SKEY: Mr. Chairman, may I reserve my right to bring up this question again later in the estimates on receipt of further information?

The CHAIRMAN: I understand the arrangement is that any questions which are left over unanswered during the discussion of