

ment must be measured in terms of its own promises in 1945. Those promises were referred to this afternoon in a question or two by the hon. member for Peel (Mr. Graydon); and the hon. member for Ottawa West (Mr. McIlraith), the parliamentary assistant to the minister, sought to brush them aside by suggesting—he surely cannot really have persuaded himself that it is so—that the promises had been fulfilled.

You know, Mr. Speaker, as every member of this house knows, that the promises made by this government in respect of housing during the 1945 election campaign have not been fulfilled. There was no talk then about limited responsibility on the part of the government. You know what the electorate would have replied to any such statement had it been made by a minister of the crown, whether by the present Minister of Justice (Mr. Ilsley), in the light of his campaign speech in Massey Hall in Toronto, or in the speech made during that campaign by the present Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin), to the effect that the drive for tanks would now become the drive for houses.

Those were the promises. They have not been fulfilled. Apparently this government has forgotten them or would like to forget them; but I conceive it to be the duty of this house to see to it that the government is not permitted to forget them, and certainly that the people of Canada do not forget them. Neither of these ministers nor the minister of reconstruction would have had a very pleasant reception had he gone before a meeting of electors during the campaign of 1945 and said, "There is a very limited responsibility on the part of the federal government in regard to housing. Our responsibility is confined to the housing of veterans." Do you think this government would have come back to office? Certainly to state that proposition is to supply the answer. Not one of these ministers would have had the temerity at that time to make the assertion with respect to limited responsibility that the minister of reconstruction made on behalf of the government on the occasion to which I have referred.

And what of those promises? Well, here is one I hope the house has not forgotten, one that figured prominently in the campaign advertising of the Liberal party in 1945. Here we find a young couple portrayed standing in front of this beautiful, charming home. The young bride in rapture exclaims, with her hands clasped: "What! You're buying that lovely little home for only \$13.82 a month?" Why, you could not get anything much better than a henhouse today for \$13.82 a month.

[Mr. Fleming.]

How about some fulfilment of these promises? Oh, yes; and there is a great deal of padding in this campaign literature. I think I should read what appears at the bottom of the picture, by way of reply to the enraptured exclamation of the young bride. The answer is: "Yes—\$13.82 a month pays interest and principal on a \$3,000 home under the Liberal new housing plan." The advertisement goes on:

Yes—it's true! You can have an attractive home of your very own. Putter around the garden. It's all yours to live in and enjoy.

Well, the gardens are pretty empty. They have the gardens, apparently, but they cannot have the houses.

What a break for young couples . . .

Yes, what a break the young couples have had from this government in the matter of housing!

. . . and older folk who never thought they could afford to own their own homes.

These Liberal government plans are now a FACT.

The plans may have been a fact, but the houses have not become a fact.

They are laws already on the statute books—

You see, they were quite satisfied then that they had all the powers required to get the houses built.

—not visions of some ideal "state" twenty-five years away.

The man who wrote that sentence was a master of understatement. At the rate this government is going it will take fifty years and more to fulfil these promises.

They are for you—and now.

Think of that!

The Liberal government has a real, working plan.

I think we would all like to see it.

It advances twenty-five per cent of the loan. You pay a new low rate of interest. You can take thirty years to pay for your home, if you wish.

Then we read:

Other Liberal plans include new farm homes, modernization of your present home, low rental housing, and slum clearance.

Think of that; what a far cry from 1945! What has been done by this government in the way of slum clearance? Then comes this statement, which in the light of conditions in 1948 must shock the conscience of those who have consciences:

We are planning for at least 600,000 housing units, and perhaps 1,000,000. No matter where you live you will be able to reside in a comfortable home of which you can be proud.