

municipalities act of British Columbia and the attitude of some private owners of property surrounding the city.

That is, I think, a concrete illustration of the soundness and the validity of the argument put forward by the hon. member for Mackenzie. That problem cannot be solved without cooperation, and a policy which permits cooperation, between federal, provincial and municipal governments. The federal government would have to provide the funds. The provincial government would have to provide the legislation, and make arrangements for the extending of the city's boundaries; and the municipal government would, of course, have to cooperate as they do under Wartime Housing. This is a concrete illustration of the need for cooperation between all three types of governments if we are to build houses and build them within a reasonable time in the future.

Why should this be such a problem? During the war, when the needs of this country required the building of a \$10 million plant to produce ammonia products, a plant was built in short order in the city of Trail, in the municipality of Tadanac. And quite close, when we required a \$12 million power plant for the production of power, the plant was built. Material and labour were obtained. All that was done in order to supply the needs of war. At the present time we have human needs which must be supplied. There are 500 families waiting for houses to live in—and of those 500, at least 200 are veterans who cannot secure satisfactory accommodation—because there is no policy which permits their problem to be solved. I am not blaming the municipal authorities. Their hands are tied, because they cannot extend the boundaries of the city under the provincial municipalities act, and because of the attitude of certain owners of property surrounding the city.

In conclusion, I say that if we had a housing policy based on the principles of Wartime Housing—which I think have been successful in most respects—which permitted cooperation of national, provincial and municipal authorities, who were determined to solve the problem as we solved our problems during the war, the housing needs of our people would be met in a reasonable time.

Mr. T. J. BENTLEY (Swift Current): While the problem in my constituency is not exactly the same as that which has been described by some other members, nevertheless it is a serious one and I think it should be drawn to the attention of the minister. He probably already knows about it from other sources, but I believe it should be drawn to his attention here also. I agree with the three

previous speakers in what they have said regarding this need. Swift Current is not an industrial city. With the exception of one or two larger plants, it is comprised mostly of small businessmen and people like that. It is not a corporation city. The result is that a great many of our returned men prefer to build their homes within the city limits rather than to take advantage of the small holdings section of the Veterans' Land Act, or of Wartime Housing, of which there is none in this city. They want to build their private homes on lots which they can choose. The city council made available to them city-owned lots at a nominal price and the local contractors there—small enterprises operating on their own—have been doing their best, within the framework of the National Housing Act to provide the necessary homes for veterans who cared to have them constructed in that way.

The severity of the winter and last fall's bad weather prevented a start on many of these houses. The consequence has been that the rising of prices and the inability of the contractors to get the material has slowed down operations greatly, and the legion is becoming quite concerned. The legion is a body representative of the people around there. The membership is close to four hundred. It is composed, I believe, of about 100 veterans of the last war and 200 or more veterans of this war. The veterans are a reasonable bunch of men; they are not at all rambunctious in their ideas, and they give careful consideration to the things which they propose. I think I could not put the situation before this house in any better way than by reading the resolution which was passed there quite recently and which came to me in the mail. I should have preferred to have this representation made during the discussion on the appropriate section of Bill No. 104, but it fits in very well with the present discussion. This resolution was sent to the federal control board. I presume that is the timber control board or the people connected with that matter in the minister's department. This is what it says:

Whereas the housing situation is still acute and a first problem for federal, provincial and municipal governing bodies and

Whereas the costs of building increase month by month with such material beyond the reach of the average wage-earning citizen and particularly the returned service man and woman and

Whereas the ex-service person through these inflated and prohibitive costs is least able, though most deserving, to purchase his home

Be it resolved by the Canadian Legion, Swift Current branch, No. 56, and its ladies' auxiliary, that this housing situation be brought once more to the notice of the federal control board with