

However, I must admit that the pressure on us was not nearly as great as it is on the present Government. This should be non-political, and we should give praise where praise is due.

I want to defend Mr. Herbert Hignett, the chairman of this great crown corporation, C.M.H.C. I also wish to congratulate the Honourable Mr. Andras on his modesty, his scope of vision and ambition for the future. I also congratulate him on the fact that he too appreciates that housing is not a political matter and that he will co-operate with a Conservative government in the Province of Ontario, and with the government of any of the other provinces, in bringing about a solution to this vexed and important problem.

**Hon. Mr. Molson:** Honourable senators, with your permission may I ask the sponsor when we shall receive copies of the bill. I have listened with close attention to the discussion of what seems to be an excellent bill, but neither my neighbours nor I have yet received a copy.

**Hon. Mr. Aseltine:** They were in the mail this morning.

**Hon. Mr. Molson:** They are not in our places here.

**Hon. Mr. Walker:** Senator Molson is right. The service has fallen down badly. I have not received Senate *Hansard* or half the bills in the last three weeks. Something is happening around here.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** I have my copy. They were distributed through the mail this morning.

**Hon. Mr. Langlois:** I do not know what may have happened to Senator Molson's copy of the bill. I have several copies, and I presume that his must be in the mail.

Motion agreed to and bill read second time.

#### REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On motion of Hon. Mr. Langlois, bill referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce.

### NATIONAL HOUSING ACT, 1954 (MUNICIPAL WORKS)

#### BILL TO AMEND—SECOND READING

**Hon. Leopold Langlois** moved the second reading of Bill C-201, to amend the National Housing Act, 1954.

He said: Honourable senators, I have already referred to this bill in moving second reading of the previous one. Therefore, I will be brief in my remarks on this measure.

Although the recommendation contained in the bill before us represents only a simple change in the existing National Housing Act, it is a matter of substantial importance to the provinces, their municipalities and to Canadians generally.

As honourable senators are aware, financial assistance for the construction or expansion of sewage treatment facilities was first introduced into our housing legislation in December 1960. Since that time it has continued to form the basis for much of the outstanding progress we have achieved in combatting soil and water pollution. Some measure of the significance of this program is demonstrated by the fact that almost 900 municipalities have now benefited under these arrangements through federal authorization of 1,441 loans, with an aggregate value in excess of \$300 million.

While the high ratio loans, at a preferential interest rate, have themselves proved a boon to local governments, there is no doubt that the added incentive of a federal offer of partial debt cancellation for work put in place within a prescribed time limit has been a most effective stimulus to these activities. At present the legislation provides that one-quarter of the loan and interest charges may be forgiven in respect of all work put in place by March 31, 1970.

The purpose of Bill C-201 is to extend this special feature for another five years—that is, to the end of March 1975. This recommendation, I suggest, assumes new significance in view of the added support proposed in Bill C-192 for the assembly and servicing of land for all housing purposes by the provinces and municipalities.

I believe honourable senators are most anxious that efforts to protect our lands from pollution and to return our lakes and rivers to their original purity must be continued and further encouraged. Your approval of the proposal put forward in this bill will do much to ensure that this will be the case.

Here again, honourable senators, I wish to add that, should this bill receive second reading, I intend to move that it be referred to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce.

**Hon. David Walker:** Honourable senators, that is a very succinct explanation of Bill