

Housing

the house in a few weeks time, as the Prime Minister mentioned, and if it does not go as far as it should, then that is the time to say so. Let us not castigate the government for doing nothing in the field of housing when it is not true.

An hon. Member: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Mackasey: If you want to say something, wait your turn and stand up.

The Economic Council said that in 1970 we would need 200,000 housing units in this country. The Council under-estimated the number, because we will reach that figure this year. We reached 190,000 last year, two years before the target date. If the problem is particularly acute, as it is in Hamilton, Oakville, Burlington and the Golden Triangle, it is because this area is a heavily industrialized part of the country and inevitably housing difficulties arise in the industrialized section of every nation.

This is true of Sweden as it is of England, that great Utopia of labour. Mr. Speaker, with all the labour discrimination that is going on there, God knows what kind of government they will have—

Mr. Douglas (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands): There has not been a Liberal government there for a long time.

Mr. Mackasey: The solution there is not as complicated as it is in Canada where there are ten jurisdictions. The solution put forward by members of the N.D.P. is a simple one, and very pragmatic; I am inclined to be pragmatic myself. It is to ignore the constitution. Full steam ahead, they say, walk into the municipalities, build low-cost public housing; to heck with the constitution and the municipalities, because the man in the street wants something done. That is true. But let us stop and think. The man in the street who elected the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) is the same elector who elects provincial members to office. He is the man who elects councillors, aldermen and Reeves to city councils and so on.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. The hon. gentleman's time has expired.

Some hon. Members: Go on.

Mr. Mackasey: I shall bring my remarks to a close. I thank hon. members for their courtesy.

Mr. Stanfield: The only reason we raised any objection yesterday about extension of

[Mr. Mackasey.]

time was that a specific order had been made to enable as many hon. members as possible to participate. Now, we have reached Friday and we have all the weekend ahead of us.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mackasey: I shared the opinion of the hon. gentleman yesterday. There was a time limit and he was quite right in invoking it. I appreciate his courtesy on this occasion. I hope he will be flying home one of these weekends. It seems to me the labour vote is coming to the conclusion that it does not need to concentrate on the socialist party to get recognition in the House of Commons.

As I was saying, the people who elect the federal government are also those who elect the provincial governments and the candidates for municipal office. Before the constitution of Canada can be changed so as to place the responsibility for housing policy and so on within federal jurisdiction, under the proper jurisdiction, it is necessary to sit down in consultation with people who are prepared to do just that. The same applies to a determination of what should be federal and what should be provincial in the field of education. The solutions will come when the people in the provinces understand that they may be attacking the wrong source. They should elect in each province, members who are prepared to attend constitutional conferences, who will agree to revise the constitution and put in the federal field those areas which ought to be federal, and in the provincial field the areas which should remain provincial. But this is not something on which action can be taken unilaterally. Anyone with common sense knows it.

Mr. Lewis: Nobody said it could.

Mr. Mackasey: You implied it. You have suggested everything. Would you like me to run through everything you have suggested in three years? I will start with Mr. Cliche.

Mr. Lewis: You are not intimidating me.

Mr. Mackasey: I am not trying to. I could deal with LaPierre, Cliche, Taylor, Gifford and a few of the others. I could tell you about Dr. Lagure. He almost won an election, he told me one night, because he managed to coral all the separatist votes in Outremont.

Mr. Lewis: Will the minister permit a question? I know how fair, how honourable the hon. gentleman is, and how careful—