

*Supply—National Revenue*

Corporation have come prepared this afternoon to give a most detailed explanation of and exhaustive reports on all operations concerning the Fraserview veterans rental and purchase scheme in the city of Vancouver. Since 1962 clear evidence has been presented in the house indicating the interest of veterans in Vancouver particularly and in general throughout Canada, as well as that of members from British Columbia in what has taken place at Fraserview in the city of Vancouver under the housing policy of the government or Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The need for an exhaustive investigation in committee this afternoon would not have arisen had there been a commonsense and, realistic approach by either or both the government and C.M.H.C. in holding a public hearing in the city of Vancouver as promised, where the entire issue could have been placed on the table and decisions reached. In the alternative the whole question could have been referred to the veterans affairs committee of the House of Commons for the purpose of investigation and examination and making a report to the house. However, in view of the decision by the government or C.M.H.C. or both not to hold a public hearing in Vancouver as requested and promised, and not to refer the matter to the veterans affairs committee, members of the house have no other recourse than to insist, in fact demand that before this item passes we shall have the fullest information and the most complete explanation of policy. When I say the fullest information I do not mean only for the last two years. I hope the minister or the officials have information with them for everything on the balance sheet from the start of construction in 1949 up until the present time.

I ask for a balance sheet showing both sides, revenues and expenditures. I ask that the expenditure item disclose the cost of the land, the cost of servicing construction, the cost of construction, the maintenance cost, the insurance cost, the taxes and what has been written off by the central mortgage and housing as depreciation since 1949. Then the revenue item should disclose the rents and the sales. Then, Mr. Chairman, let us get the relationship between the rentals that are now being asked and the selling price which is being asked.

When I asked the minister a question a couple of days ago, and another member asked one I believe last week, we were told that everyone has signed a rental or sales agreement except 50. I believe that was the

[Mr. Winch.]

figure. I am not in any position to challenge the figure of 50 and say it is right or wrong. I will accept the minister's statement. However, let me make this clear, or as clear as I possibly can: Even if there are only 50 who have not yet agreed to the sale price or signed a rental agreement, they are backed by the hundreds who have signed in so far as the principle those 50 are espousing is concerned. I will say, without fear of honest contradiction, that the majority of those who have signed within the last two years, signed because of intimidation and fear as a result of the letters they received to the effect that if they did not agree to the rental or the sale price, then they would get their eviction notice.

There are many who will bow to that sort of thing because they feel, what else can they do? I also used the word "fear". There may be a better word that escapes me at the moment. What are they up against right now? First, you have to find new accommodation in Vancouver or the lower mainland; there are the costs of moving, the disturbance to the home and children being torn from the only local friends they have; taken away from school and put in a new one. If you add all these things together, you will find the reason many people signed under protest, as a result of intimidation and fear. I am not speaking out of hearsay, sir. I have talked to a great many of these people as recently as one week ago in Fraserview itself.

Now, sir, we are asking for a balance sheet from 1949 until now. We are asking that the minister give us, from the record, the policy basis for the construction of these homes. What were the commitments, definite or implied at the time the veterans went into these homes? What was the position of the Liberal party up until last year with regard to the Fraserview situation, on the basis of which some 1,200 veterans in the city of Vancouver, in Fraserview, are being asked by the government and C.M.H.C. to make up the losses that have been incurred in the rest of Canada? We would like to know in detail why the government, whose heart bleeds for the veteran during election campaigns, now want to make a profit out of the veteran? To the best of my knowledge, they do not even intend to take into consideration in the selling price the depreciation which has been wiped off every year since construction. Of course, when I say "every year", I may be a little bit out. If my memory serves me correctly, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation said that the records of the first