

sion as this Government. The Government can hardly laugh off the Conservative Government of Nova Scotia as it tries to laugh off the NDP Governments of western Canada. The article continues:

Yesterday provincial Housing Minister Mike Laffin pleaded with his federal counterpart Bill McKnight of CMHC for more co-op housing in Nova Scotia.

Since assuming power McKnight has implemented a stringent program called Assessed Cost Effectiveness (ACE) which has reduced the number of co-op housing units built in Nova Scotia.

The Minister can give this program a fancy title like Assessed Cost Effectiveness, but he has never explained it to those who have inquired. As far as we can find out, through that program the Minister simply says: "I like him; I do not like him". He obviously does not like the co-op people in eastern Canada.

The article to which I had referred goes on to read:

Nova Scotia MPs were the first to learn of the 1985 co-op cuts, last Friday.

I have a letter here from the Hon. Member for Halifax (Mr. McInnes) dated December 4, 1984, which is when he began to realize that there was a problem. The letter reads:

I have been advised by the Minister responsible for CMHC that they are not able to accede to your request for remedial work with regard to your most recent proposal.

I have difficulty in accepting the merit of the decision in view of the tremendous demand for housing in Halifax but accept that the Government has established priorities and apparently they lean towards new construction.

That letter was written on December 4. On December 7, a letter was written to the Basinview Housing Co-op in care of Access Housing Services. As I mentioned, the Basinview Housing Co-op is now called the Seaview Housing Co-op. This letter was written by Michael W. Tucker, Program Manager of the Social Housing Department, CMHC. The letter reads in part:

Inasmuch as your proposal was considered to be in a priority area this year, we are prepared to recognize that priority for purposes of reviewing 1985 proposals. It is suggested you modify your submission based on a new site, bearing in mind that a peninsula of Halifax location is preferred, but in any case you should locate within the metropolitan area.

Also, it goes without saying that all usual conditions of application approval must be met.

In December, the co-op was asked to make some changes and told that its priority continued because of the work that had already been done. Next there is a letter dated April 30, 1985, from the City of Halifax Non-Profit Housing Society, signed by Nancy Wooden, Chairman, and C. Mellett, Consultant, to the Hon. Minister of Labour regarding the 1985 unit allocations for the Seaview Housing Co-operative. The letter reads:

Our Society was extremely distressed to hear that the Seaview Housing Co-operative did not receive funding allocations under the 1985 announced allocations. As you are very aware the housing situation in Halifax has been at crisis proportions for the last four years with vacancy rates at 0.5% and even more severe affordability problems.

The writers of the letter address specifically the changes sought by CMHC four months previous to that.

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As to the criteria for selection, the Non-Profit Housing Society has worked with Seaview Co-Operative as its priority number one for co-operative development in Halifax. That is what CMHC asked for. To date, they have agreed to lease land on the peninsula of Halifax to the co-op as asked for by CMHC; put considerable time and money into a design competition to ensure an appropriate design for the area; and provided staff time to assist in the development of the co-op. Volunteer time and money have been spent with the encouragement of CMHC to produce housing in an area where it is desperately needed, yet CMHC, without any explanation or warning, has cut them off. But they have asked in the letter that the Minister review the process of evaluating co-operative projects as they relate to affordable housing being developed in major centres close to jobs and services. They are asking for a country-wide review. They have also said that 1985 is the year in which CMHC should acknowledge the critical and ongoing shortage of affordable housing in Halifax by increasing immediately the unit allocations to mainland Nova Scotia by 25 units. That is very reasonable, Mr. Speaker. They are asking that the regional office be directed to use those 25 units within the municipal limits of the City of Halifax by funding the Seaview Housing Co-operative.

They have followed the directions of CMHC, but CMHC cut them off. I would say that that as well justifies the accusation of neglect. I would say that it justifies the accusation of contempt by this Government for the people of Halifax, as the actions I mentioned before constitute contempt for the people of Newfoundland in regard to housing programs. I am very sorry that that is so and I hope the Government will reconsider its approach in this matter.

[Translation]

Mrs. Sheila Finestone (Mount Royal): Mr. Speaker, I welcome this opportunity to add my comments to those already made on the following Opposition motion:

That this House condemns the Government for its indifference and negligence toward Atlantic Canada, especially with regard to regional industrial development, fisheries and transportation.

[English]

I was particularly interested in listening to a number of Ministers making comments and being particularly pleased with the roles they are playing in our society and the changes they are effecting. They talked about this being a new era of co-operation and harmony which they have demonstrated through ongoing consultation across this land. If those ongoing consultations do end with a positive, constructive and new place for the Atlantic Provinces in the growth and development of this country, then I for one, as will all members of my Party, be more than pleased. Certainly I would be more than ready to give the benefit of the doubt to any initiative which would improve the lot of Atlantic Canadians. However, there are so many election promises not being met and the prose and rhetoric continues in such a way that I have some serious concerns. I hope those concerns prove to be unfounded.