

*Supply*

with local Government. Indeed, we took some initiatives in that particular regard.

The Hon. Member cited one agency, Frontiers Foundation. The situation of that particular group was brought to my attention some months ago, perhaps more than a year ago. It had some difficulties, in particular administrative difficulties. We had been supportive for a very long period of time but it had accepted certain obligations to deliver the programs with which they were entrusted and, unfortunately, were not able to respond. We will give money to groups which are able to deliver rural and native programs. They are identified as those which are prepared to accept direction and responsibility. They will receive funding on that type of basis.

In response to the wind-up of the Hon. Member's question, we will be undertaking at the end of this year a review of our rural and native housing programs for the last five years to determine in consultation with territorial and northern Governments, and in consultation with native and housing groups, whether the type of programs that we have in place are working effectively, or whether there should be amendments or new proposals which might be put in place for those who are the subject of this discussion.

**Mr. Scott (Victoria—Haliburton):** Mr. Speaker, I am one who comes from rural Ontario, north of the great metropolitan area of Toronto. I often feel that we as rural Ontarian people living in the central part of Ontario are having difficulty getting a fair share of funding for low income and seniors' housing. I know that the federal Government gives the Province of Ontario 60 per cent plus, probably sometimes, of the money to fund these projects. However, at the same time I question that share of those funds that rural Ontario people are getting. I have had this concern for some time. I thought that possibly we could see some change down the road.

This matter has been raised through service clubs in that their needs were not met by the Ministers in the jurisdiction of the Province of Ontario which in my consideration carry about 100 per cent of the decision-making in respect to localities for housing.

We probably have to take a look, Mr. Minister, at the way the designation of housing is granted in consideration for people who have lived all their lives in rural Ontario where housing is less expensive than in the metropolitan and over-crowded areas. These rural people have no desire to move there. I am very concerned that their needs have not been given due consideration. I beg of the Minister to take this matter to his provincial colleagues to ask for more input in respect to the decisions made by different service clubs and non-profit organizations which want to share in rural Ontario and keep their people in the good life of Ontario.

I know that there is a long, drawn out process in respect to people in my area, central Ontario, in getting approvals. Too many of them have been overlooked in favour of the larger metropolitan areas. It is true that I know that there are a great

many people in great need, but why can we not encourage the people in the smaller communities to have affordable housing for their senior citizens, and not put more pressure on Toronto. They are used to a slower pace of life. Yet they are forced to move out to large communities, not always Metropolitan Toronto. I certainly urge the Minister to take a hard look at this matter. I know that I am not the only one who has run into it. It is not an isolated case.

I think that we should grant some rights to these people who enjoy the slower pace of life in the rural communities, large and small. That has been their chosen home over the years.

I am giving the Minister notice right now that it would be a fair choice in the decisions made for these people who want to live in the quieter parts of Ontario to have the same opportunities as the ones in the larger areas.

**Mr. McInnes:** Mr. Speaker, as is the Hon. Member's custom, he adds considerable merit to the proposal which he brings to this particular debate. I wish to try to give him some assurance that there is a federal-provincial committee of officials who try to determine the priorities in any particular province where funds are going to be expended in any particular year.

The needs and direction may change from year to year. When people say: "You are cutting out a particular program, a RRAP program, a non-profit program, and we are not going to get as many units this year as last year", that is not quite fair. What we are saying is: "Perhaps you will not get as many units as last year because the priorities have changed. There are a number of other people in your province who have a greater need".

There is some flexibility. I want to assure the Hon. Member that the situation is being monitored, that the rural parts of Canada are very important to CMHC. I take the Hon. Member's advice. I am prepared to take a new look at the matter.

**Mr. Neil Young (Beaches):** Mr. Speaker, I want to say to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. McInnes) that whether he wants to recognize it or not, there is a crisis in Canada over the availability of affordable housing. While I believe it is true across the country, I think the problem is not only apparent but very transparent when one looks at a place like Metropolitan Toronto. The Minister told us that he was proud of the fact that there had been an increase in housing starts across Canada in recent months. I am not going to dispute that, because that is the case. But I would ask the question: Who are those houses being built for? The average price of a resale house in Metropolitan Toronto shot up approximately \$11,000 in the last month to a record high of approximately \$224,000 for the cost of an average home in Metro Toronto.

● (1650)

I want to ask the Minister whether he travels in circles of people who have the type of salaries to buy that type of