

housing project in Vancouver have refused to sign new leases at increased rents and are requesting a public hearing, what action does the government propose to take?

Hon. J. R. Nicholson (Postmaster General): Mr. Speaker, I thank the hon. gentleman for having given me notice of his question. I might say that I cannot accept his premise that a large number of veterans have not signed; a substantial number, yes, but a relatively small percentage of the total number of tenants. A similar question was asked of the Acting Postmaster General last Friday by the hon. member for Vancouver East, and even if I had not received notice of this question today I would have given this answer.

In my statement on August 25 dealing with the Fraserview project I stated that the effective date for the change in the rentals on the project would be October 1. Whether there will be any default will not be known until that date. If there is default, Central Mortgage and Housing will take its usual action having regard to the circumstances of each individual case.

I think I should also say I have been informed by the officials of central mortgage and housing earlier today that 85 per cent of the tenants involved have either signed, or have indicated their intention to sign before the end of the month, new leases at the adjusted rentals. About 40 tenants have purchased houses; so that out of 601 houses involved approximately 40 have been purchased, 462 renewals have been arranged, and nine tenants have given notice of intention to vacate. There are approximately 90 or less uncommitted tenants involved, and C.M.H.C. will deal with those on an individual basis after October 1.

INDIAN AFFAIRS

INQUIRY AS TO SETTING UP OF COURT OF CLAIMS

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Bert Leboe (Cariboo): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. I am wondering whether he can tell us where we stand in connection with the Indian claims commission.

[Translation]

Hon. René Tremblay (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, two days ago I received the report of the Canadian council of Indians; it was the last major report on the amendments to be made to the bill concerning Indian claims.

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Supply—Fisheries

We will consider those recommendations within the next few weeks with a view to ascertaining the amendments which could be made. We intend to put before the house the bill concerning Indian claims as soon as possible.

[Text]

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Lamoureux in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

1. Departmental administration, including grants and contributions as detailed in estimates, \$1,159,000.

Mr. Howard: Mr. Chairman, as other hon. members have done, and as I have done in the past, I should like to laud the officials, scientists and administrators of the Department of Fisheries for the work they have done over the years, their attitude and devotion to their position and activities. I know the people in the fishing industry also have the same feeling of appreciation for the people engaged in public service who work in the Department of Fisheries.

At about the same time last year when we were considering the estimates of the Department of Fisheries I had occasion to make reference to the recent appointment of Dr. Needler as deputy minister, and I indicated the hope, with all due respect to his predecessor the late Mr. George Clark, that with the rise of Dr. Needler, a scientist, to the position of deputy minister there would be brought into play in the policy decisions of the minister and the government that depth of knowledge which can only come from one who has himself engaged over the years in scientific activities; and this appears to be the case.

Yesterday I listened with interest to the extensive remarks of the Minister of Fisheries concerning the variety of research projects, or research-type projects, being entered into by the Department of Fisheries either by itself or in conjunction with the various provinces. I myself think a great deal of the credit for this type of activity and work goes, and should go, to the officials of the department, and I hope it continues.

A great many people have had the thought that because a great number, in fact the vast majority, of the decisions of the Department of Fisheries are based on scientific knowledge rather than political expediency there is no need for a department of fisheries