

entirely attributable to higher wages prevailing in the district, nor solely to other local conditions. Your Committee recommends that the Government refer the matter to the Department of Justice with a view to determining what action, if any, may be taken if the contractors are considered at fault, and of collecting from them such amount of the increased cost as may be attributable to the contractors' fault.

Your Committee considered hearing witnesses concerning the construction defects on the Rosedale project located near Windsor. The feeling of your Committee was that disclosure of any defects in houses located in Rosedale or elsewhere could not materially add to its conclusions and that opening of another question might lead to a large number of witnesses asking to appear with the result that your Committee might not have time to bring in a report before the end of the session, and your Committee agreed on the urgency of an immediate report.

Your Committee regrets that this matter was not brought to its attention in time to have evidence by veterans of other projects. Your Committee hopes that remedial measures taken as a result of its report may satisfactorily adjust defects which may have occurred in other projects.

Your Committee was not favourably impressed by the way evidence was given by Mr. Gordon Murchison, Director, The Veterans' Land Act.

Your Committee feels that the facilities given by Canada to veterans under The Veterans' Land Act and other measures are such as to compare favourably with the treatment granted veterans by other allied countries. It, therefore, all the more regrets the inconveniences suffered by some of the veterans who have in good faith purchased houses on projects where faulty construction has been encountered, and your Committee urges that corrective remedial action should be taken at once.

Your Committee is of the opinion that the repair program, although extensive, has been conducted in a haphazard manner and that such repairs as were considered urgent by the special departmental report of Mr. W. S. Woods, Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs, and Colonel C. P. Parrish be completed at once. All corrective measures should be expedited and carried out without cost to veterans.

Your Committee recommends that the veteran shall have the option of completing his purchase within one month after all the defects in his house are corrected. Should he decide not to purchase, then the house in question should be vacated so as to be available to another veteran and the withdrawing veteran should receive a return of his deposit less a reasonable occupancy rent which, in case of dispute should be subject to appeal to the Deputy Minister.

Your Committee recommends that a board of three men be appointed consisting of real estate and building experts, none of whom shall have had previous connection with the Department of Veterans Affairs, or with any other governmental building projects, to pursue the work undertaken by your Committee, with a view to giving justice and fair treatment to veteran purchasers and all parties interested in this question, and to recommend to the Minister any remedy it may consider fit to correct the situation.

Such board should first investigate the Sarnia project, as your Committee considers it important to clarify the situation there at as early a date as possible.

Subsequent to its investigation of the Sarnia project, the board, in the opinion of your Committee, would do well to examine other projects which may be brought to its attention.

A copy of the minutes of proceedings and evidence from July 3 to date is appended.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

L. PHILIPPE PICARD,
Chairman.