

Supply—National Revenue

to the corporation's dealings with the building company in the future? In other words, if there are too many complaints does that company continue to be an approved builder eligible to receive N.H.A. loans?

This is a very serious matter for the people in these houses. They are paying a considerable amount of money for them and will have to pay this money for many years to come. They are concerned that they receive value for their money. I know there have been some complaints that this particular project is not meeting N.H.A. minimum standards. The general type of housing construction in the area is of a higher standard than is the case with this project, which is simply meeting the minimum N.H.A. standards as to the spacing of the framing, 2 by 4's, joists, etc. I am very concerned about the complaints regarding the quality of the workmanship. The corporation has sent people back time and again to try and repair some of this poor workmanship. I simply conclude, Mr. Chairman, by asking whether C.M.H.C. has sufficient inspectors in the lower mainland area to carry out the kind of inspection that should be carried out. If they have not, why do they not have sufficient inspectors who are qualified to do this work? Also, has the corporation received a considerable number of complaints from this particular project, Richmond Gardens, and has it been found that these complaints were well founded?

Mr. Herridge: Mr. Chairman, I have been sitting here patiently and I want to make a few remarks on this item. First of all I should like to say how much I appreciate the courtesy of the senior officials of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the keen attention they have paid to any complaints that have been directed to them by people in my constituency. I appreciate that very much because there are a few unusual and particular problems which have arisen during the last year. I was very glad they acted promptly in getting the facts and dealing with the situation, meeting the local representatives of the council in one case and certain other individuals on another occasion. I also recognize the good work which has been done by local officials. Sometimes one is misinformed and I have had a few letters criticizing local officials for delay in making arrangements for certain payments to be made in regard to the winter works program, I think the \$500 for winter built houses. That was not the fault of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation

but was occasioned, shall I say, by some delay in another department in making a payment.

I want to take this opportunity again to stress the need for continued and careful consideration of the needs of the residents in the smaller communities. I think there has been an improvement in this respect in recent years, but I do urge continued consideration of the particular problems which arise in smaller communities.

Second I want to urge once more—I am sure the minister supports me in this—that everything be done to utilize local materials. We have all these synthetic materials and newer types of materials these days, but there is no more interesting house today, both in its exterior and its interior, than one built from forest products. There is a great opportunity for even further research in this respect.

I would also say that I was very pleased that the local officials during the last year or so have met with responsible organizations in various communities to explain the operation of the act, the regulations, and so on. I urge a continuation of that policy because it removes a lot of misunderstanding. If you can get the co-operation of responsible groups such as chambers of commerce, labour organizations and farmers' organizations in the administration of the act, and in dealing with any problems which arise locally, I think matters generally are settled to the satisfaction of all concerned. The greater co-operation that exists in the administration of any department, the more democratic is the system.

I want to bring to the attention of the minister a problem which has interested me for some years and which has also particularly interested the Royal Canadian Legion and other veterans' organizations in the country. I am referring to the problem of satisfactory housing for aging veterans who are capable of looking after themselves. I have discussed this question pretty thoroughly with a good number of veterans and with representatives from local organizations, and I have become well informed on the matter as a result of attendances at conventions of veterans' organizations, zone council meetings of the Royal Canadian Legion in my own constituency, attendance at branch meetings of the Legion and attendance at meetings of other organizations which are interested in this particular problem. I met some of the committee members of the Royal Canadian Legion on housing and discussed it with them,