

*National Housing Act*

**Mr. Nicholson:** Again, Mr. Speaker, I do not like to interrupt the hon. member but I am sure she has forgotten MacLean Park, which has shown such great promise.

**Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** I was waiting today for a telephone call from Central Mortgage and Housing about MacLean Park. It is the one project I had no information about. After I have finished perhaps the minister might tell me the exact status of MacLean Park. The other projects, Old Orchard, Skeena Terrace and Little Mountain, are not provided with recreational facilities. In the older projects—and this is true of Skeena Terrace—people, old and young, are cooped up without recreational facilities. The people at Skeena Terrace need recreational facilities both inside the buildings and outside. Being on low incomes, these people find it hard to pay carfare to take their children to recreational facilities, even if they have the time to do it.

I do not blame anyone for the mistakes that were made because mistakes are made in the construction of any project. The trouble is that projects such as I have mentioned are in danger of becoming isolation wards cut off from the rest of the city by poverty and lack of amenities, and the people feel hopeless and isolated.

Here is the point I wish to make. Since last spring, social workers from the city, members of the Vancouver park board, and more recently members of the city council including the mayor and aldermen—I do not know whether they came down to Ottawa but they were supposed to—

**Mr. Nicholson:** They did.

**Mrs. MacInnis's (Vancouver-Kingsway):**—have been working to get the minister to make a change in the National Housing Act which would allow him to rectify the mistakes made in the earlier projects. The city council proposed—

**Mr. Nicholson:** I hate to interrupt the hon. member, but if she reads the present act she will find that it is possible for the federal government, under the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation legislation to do many of the things that she suggests. But that is not so for existing public housing, because provincial legislation does not permit many things. We can do things if the municipality and provincial government concerned recommend that they be done. We are glad to do things, as

demonstrated by the MacLean Park project and by other projects.

**Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Do I understand that if the provincial government and the city agree the federal government will make available one-third of the sum needed to put in recreational facilities that were not put in when the projects I mentioned earlier were completed?

**Mr. Nicholson:** Reasonable recreational facilities are possible. Yes, we shall be glad to do that.

**Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** Will the federal government take the initiative in this regard? Who must take the initiative? Which level of government must do that?

**Mr. Nicholson:** I think the hon. member knows that the initiative must come from the municipal level.

**Mrs. MacInnis (Vancouver-Kingsway):** If the delegation has not heard yet, I am sure it will be glad to hear what the minister has said. The problems in the projects I have mentioned have gone on for a long time. The minister has received much correspondence about this matter, and what he has said will be good news for the social workers and civic people of Vancouver.

My colleague from Broadview asked me to mention something he had overlooked this afternoon. What I say affects the Toronto area but it will affect Vancouver later. The hon. member said that what hinders municipalities from carrying out urban renewal projects is the cost of relocating the people affected. The second point he wished to mention has to do with the capital cost of new schools. He suggested to me, and I mention this to the minister, that something should be done about this by way of an amendment to the National Housing Act. I hope the minister will tell us whether there will be leeway under the amendments to provide new schools when municipalities request them as part of urban renewal projects.

Returning to Vancouver I shall deal with a matter that must also be familiar to the minister. In the housing projects earlier mentioned the tenants tried, quite naturally to improve their conditions. A number of general meetings were held by the tenants of the four completed projects. They resulted in a brief, a copy of which I have here. I wish to bring out some of the points in it because what the