

Demobilization—Munitions and Supply

Mr. HOWE: Yes; we never build anything else.

Mr. FLEMING: Then I shall put it in this way. How many of the 7,000 houses are being built with foundations and how many without?

Mr. HOWE: We have noted the question.

Mr. FLEMING: Out of the \$30,000,000 there had been spent in the first five months of the fiscal year something less than \$1,000,000. How many of these 7,000 houses have now been constructed? On how many has construction commenced but not yet been completed? Within what time will construction be completed? Do the 7,000 houses include those contemplated for veterans? If they do not include any being provided under the Veterans Land Act, how many of the 7,000 have been earmarked for occupation by veterans? I take it that information will not be available to-night.

The minister indicated this afternoon that the houses are to provide a need in the field of low-rent housing. To use his own words, "They are to hold the situation." I take it that he contends there is some lack in this field which would not otherwise be provided. In that regard I should like to ask this question. I think in the first place the committee would like to know what is the estimated rent and in full detail how it is arrived at. In the second place, what is the cost of the sites? If any of these are being provided by the municipalities concerned, are they being provided on the basis of donations, fixed taxes, or fixed assessments? Are there any subsidies involved, directly or indirectly, in arriving at the rent which is estimated?

What relationship have the 7,000 houses to those which are intended to be built by Housing Enterprises of Canada Limited? Much has been said about the efforts of this new housing company, formed under part II of the National Housing Act to provide houses. We have been told that already an attempt is being made to construct integrated housing in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. Does the figure of 7,000 houses estimated here bear any relationship at all to those houses?

I have some further questions on the subject of building materials.

Mr. HOWE: I wonder if the hon. member would ask his questions to-morrow. I had intended asking the committee to rise at this time so as to permit the transaction of other business before eleven o'clock.

[Mr. Fleming.]

Mr. FLEMING: I have not many more questions. Perhaps if I put them on record now, it would save time to-morrow.

Mr. HOWE: Would the hon. member put them on quickly?

Mr. FLEMING: The next group of questions is on the subject of the requisitioning of materials.

First, what quantities of building materials are being requisitioned at the present time by Wartime Housing Limited, or by the government?

How long does the government contemplate that either it or Wartime Housing Limited will continue to requisition material?

Has any account been taken of the possible liability that private builders may be under for breach of contract in consequence of materials on which they were depending being requisitioned by the government or by Wartime Housing Limited?

What quantities of building materials has Wartime Housing Limited or the government on hand at the present time?

What quantities of two-and-one-half inch nails are in storage in Toronto, in the hands of either the government or Wartime Housing Limited?

Does the government still expect that private builders in Canada will build 40,000 houses in the first year after victory?

What is the number of employees of Wartime Housing Limited? Is there any reduction of that number in prospect? Is there any accompanying reduction in the activities of Wartime Housing Limited in prospect in the near future?

Item stands.

Progress reported.

SUPPLY

The house in committee of supply, Mr. Macdonald (Brantford City) in the chair.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

91. Departmental Administration, \$170,499.

Item stands.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

349. Departmental Administration, \$434,101.

Item stands.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

398. Departmental Administration, \$835,856.

Item stands.

Progress reported.

At eleven o'clock the house adjourned without question put, pursuant to standing order.