Inquiries of the Ministry

respect to assistance from the government. There is not only the need for the provision of more direct money, but because of the complete inability of the private sector to supply building funds, interest rates, where private money is available, are now more than 8 per cent. According to reports the other day the cost of a $13,000 home has risen to $15,000. This is the kind of difficulty which the house building industry and the home builder face.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, though we can say we are grateful for small mercies, government policy which has given rise to this situation should be corrected.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

MOTIONS FOR CONCURRENCE IN REPORTS

On the order:

Mr. Cameron (High Park) (chairman of the standing committee on justice and legal affairs):

That the first report of the standing committee on justice and legal affairs, presented to the house on Tuesday, April 26, 1966, be now concurred in.

Mr. Cameron (High Park): Mr. Speaker, I ask that the motion standing in my name be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

On the order:

Mr. Hales (chairman of the standing committee on public accounts):

That the first report of the standing committee on public accounts, presented to the house on Wednesday, April 27, 1966, be now concurred in.

That the second report of the standing committee on public accounts, presented to the house on Wednesday, April 27, 1966, be now concurred in.

Mr. Hales: Mr. Speaker, because of the time allotted to the supply motion I would ask that the two motions in my name be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Is it agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

ACTIVITIES IN CANADA OF U.S. INTELLI-
GENCE AGENCY

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. J. G. Diefenbaker (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I direct a question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. It has to do with one Eerik Heine, a Canadian citizen regarding whom libelous

[Mr. Thompson.]

statements have allegedly been made by the C.I.A., the central intelligence agency of the United States, and disseminated throughout Canada to Estonian groups. These statements were to the effect that Heine was or is a communist agent.

I should like to ask the minister whether the Canadian government has sought information or made representations to the government of the United States regarding C.I.A. activities among immigrant groups in Canada; are such activities being carried on and, if so, are they being carried on with the co-operation and consent or permission of the government of Canada?

Hon. Paul Martin (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, this matter is being discussed with the government of the United States, and until those discussions have been completed I would prefer to withhold my reply.

UNITED NATIONS

CANADIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD ADMISSION
OF MAINLAND CHINA

On the orders of the day:

Mr. T. C. Douglas (Burnaby-Coquitlam): Mr. Speaker, my question is for the right hon. Prime Minister. In view of his message to the world veterans federation urging that there be universal membership for the United Nations, I should like to ask the Prime Minister whether this means that the Canadian government will instruct its delegation to the United Nations to support the admission of mainland China.

Right Hon. L. B. Pearson (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it always has been the position of the Canadian government that the membership of the United Nations should be universal, and that there are disputes, and will be disputes, in the world which cannot be resolved or even assisted by the United this ideal soon will be realized, but there are not members of the United Nations. We hope this ideal soon will be realized, but there are certain conditions which have to be fulfilled before the membership of any particular country can be approved in the United Nations. I am thinking now of the government at Peking, and I understand discussions are going on at the moment with a view to that matter being considered at the next meeting of the assembly. I cannot add anything other than that statement.