

under constant review. I think you might say that in the last 6 months and virtually for the first time since January 1, 1946—building materials as have been in free supply. That is, with one or two minor exceptions in certain localities, such as cement in some localities, and steel, particularly when a small house is in an area where re-enforcing steel is required; but generally it is pretty free. The other question asked was where did this policy originate? Of course it originates from the minister.

Mr. FLEMING: Are you satisfied in general, Mr. Mansur, with the way the corporation is meeting the task which has been assigned to it? If not, where are the places where you think that improvement can be made?

Mr. MACNAUGHTON: Answer "yes" or "no".

The WITNESS: I hope I never reach the point where I am satisfied; but without being sententious about this—

Mr. HELLYER: That is diplomacy!

The WITNESS: I think that by any reasonable standards the corporation has done a good job since 1946.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Hear, Hear!

The WITNESS: But I think that in any operation some of its phases are less favourable than others. As my prepared statement indicated, we have 5 regions with some 30 branch offices. We have some regions which are better than other regions, and some branch offices which are better than other branch offices. But through it all I think we have a fair record of accomplishment, and in answering the hon. member's question I can say that while I am reasonably happy, I still have an eye towards improvement.

By Mr. Fleming:

Q. There are quite specific spots in which you feel that things are not working as well as they could, towards the goals contemplated by the statute?—
A. Yes, I think there are some in which I would like to see greater improvement.

Q. Would you mind indicating what those are?—A. Well, I think that in common with every other country that is interested in the housing field, we are having equal troubles in making progress on the technique of putting better houses together for less money. That is not peculiar to ourselves. It is equally true in the United States and it is equally true in the United Kingdom. Even, in Sweden, which is probably one of the most advanced countries in the world for housing, if you look at the actual physical changes which have been made towards better technology in building houses, the amount of progress even in Sweden is not very great. I am very unhappy about the situation. I think that of all the industries in the production line that we have—as was said in the House of Commons just the other day—it is probably the case that housing has moved less from the pyramids perhaps, than other assembly practices. I would think, Mr. Chairman, that was one of the things that was not as favourable as some of our other activities.

By Mr. Fraser:

Q. Has Central Mortgage studied the Levitt outfit in the United States, where they have produced houses over there by the thousands at \$2,000 less than other builders can produce them, and of a better quality?—A. Mr. Chairman, I spent 2 days in Levittown, unchaperoned by the Levitts. I was tremendously interested in the operation there. There was one thing which interested me particularly, and it was the method of constructing those houses. Mr. Levitt had tried various ways or methods of production, but he finally reverted to the traditional method of on site construction.