

only way to meet housing requirements in this country is to design legislation which is intended to meet those requirements, not to design gimmick legislation merely as a sop to unemployment. This is an area in which I believe the government should be moving and planning, rather than indulging in meaningless gimmicks which do not provide the addition of one single house or provide any additional jobs on a year-round basis.

I hold in my hand a bulletin issued by an association with which I am sure the minister is familiar, the Vancouver housing association. They too make some fairly pointed criticisms. The bulletin is dated March 1, 1964 and one of their submissions is the following:

The Vancouver housing authority has applications on file from some 450 families, including many broken families, and 600 elderly persons. Many of these people are very poorly housed.

Under the heading "Too Many Cooks" the bulletin has this to say:

In an address given in January before the social planning council of metropolitan Toronto, Mr. Harold Clark, a member of the metropolitan Toronto housing authority, made a strong plea for simplifying the administration of public housing. After stating bluntly that, "today there is general frustration over the ineptness of government in the field of public housing, and there is also confusion", Mr. Clark went on to point out that there are no fewer than five separate local agencies and four levels of government responsible for the building or management of public housing in the Toronto area and that 56 separate steps, involving numerous agencies, have to be taken before a housing project can get under way. The net outcome has been that "C.M.H.C. and the provincial government working as a team, and pooling their vast resources of manpower and money power, have since 1958 constructed and turned over to the housing authority 352 units of family housing, or 7 per cent of the 1958 metropolitan Toronto target" of 5,000 units.

Perhaps the minister can bring us up to date on what progress has been made in the field of public housing so that we can compare the situation in 1960, the time the report covers, with that in 1963.

Before I sit down I want to say a word about native housing. As I have noted, new residential construction is down by 25.1 per cent and housing starts are down by 26 per cent. I have called native housing in Canada a national disgrace. I see the minister shaking his head. I am quoting d.b.s. figures taken from page 2 of the d.b.s. *Daily Bulletin* for September 29, 1964.

**The Chairman:** Order. Perhaps I should interrupt the hon. member at this strategic moment to bring to his attention that his time has expired unless he has the consent of the committee to continue. Is it agreed?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Nielsen:** I will just take two minutes to make my point to the minister with regard to native housing. I have called it a national disgrace and it is time that the government attacked this problem by taking off their kid gloves. They should embark immediately on a massive program of housing for native Indian populations on reserves. Present conditions on these reserves, and I am sure the minister is aware of them, are scandalous and carry with them the seeds of permanent social disaster. The minister is probably keenly aware of the disgraceful conditions in which most of our native populations in southern Canada live but if they are disgraceful in southern Canada they are absolutely appalling in northern Canada. In the Yukon, in the Northwest Territories and in the northern portion of the provinces living conditions are absolutely appalling. Some of the people live in tents all year round and others live in sod hut hovels.

I believe these conditions are an affront to the conscience of every Canadian. The government plays and plays with schemes to unload its responsibilities upon, in most cases, unwilling provincial authorities. I ask the minister this question. Why does the government not take a positive stand and come to grips with the very serious problems involving native housing conditions in this country rather than attempting to slough them off on the provinces? The minister will realize that I have reference to the plan for disposing of the Ungava Eskimos and a few other plans with respect to the native peoples of this country with which the government is playing around.

The conditions are a disgrace. As I have said, they are an affront to the conscience of every Canadian. There is no reason in the world why the minister, who reports to parliament as the minister responsible for C.M.H.C., cannot co-ordinate a scheme with the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and his other cabinet colleagues to embark on a positive program to eliminate for all time the disgraceful and appalling housing conditions which, as I have said, are inviting permanent social disaster so far as the native populations of Canada are concerned.

**Mr. Winch:** Mr. Chairman, with all the unofficial notice the minister has had over many weeks, if not months, through the medium of questions on orders of the day, I certainly hope that the minister and the officials of Central Mortgage and Housing