

National Housing Act

In Prince Edward Island the figures in respect of these earnings are as follows: 68 per cent earn \$4,000 per year; 14 per cent earn between \$4,000 and \$5,000; 7.6 per cent earn between \$5,000 and \$6,000; 4.5 per cent earn between \$6,000 and \$7,000, and 2.5 per cent earn between \$7,000 and \$8,000. So again the bulk of the wage earning population in that province is simply unable to buy homes if you use the yardstick that one's income should be at least \$8,000 per year.

In my own province of Nova Scotia, 54 per cent of the people earn less than \$4,000 per year; 16.5 per cent are in the \$4,000 to \$5,000 category; 11.5 per cent are in the \$5,000 to \$6,000 category; 6.5 per cent are in the \$6,000 to \$7,000 category, and 2.2 per cent are in the \$7,000 and \$8,000. Again the story is the same. Most Nova Scotians are simply unable to own even the most modest home.

In New Brunswick the figures are almost identical to those for Nova Scotia. Some 54 per cent earn under \$4,000; 16.5 per cent fall in the next \$1,000 category; 11.5 per cent earn between \$5,000 and \$6,000; 7 per cent earn between \$6,000 and \$7,000 and 4 per cent earn between \$7,000 and \$8,000.

We now move into central Canada where we find that 45 per cent of the wage earners in Quebec earn less than \$4,000 per year; 17 per cent earn between \$4,000 and \$5,000; 13 per cent fall within the next \$1,000 level; 9 per cent fall within the \$6,000 to \$7,000 category; and 5.5 per cent earn between \$7,000 and \$8,000.

In Ontario, generally estimated as the richest of the provinces, 40 per cent earn under \$4,000; 15 per cent fall within the next \$1,000 category; 14 per cent fall in the next category; 11 per cent in the next and 6.5 per cent earn between \$7,000 and \$8,000. Even in this province, with its resources and great industry, there are many people who will simply never have the chance to own their own homes at today's costs.

In Manitoba 48 per cent of the wage earners fall in the \$4,000 per year category and the figures in respect of the next four \$1,000 steps up are 16 per cent, 13 per cent, 8 per cent and 5 per cent.

In Saskatchewan the figures are almost identical being 40 per cent under \$4,000; 15.5 per cent in the next category, then 12 per cent, 8 per cent and 5 per cent.

In Alberta the figures are 45 per cent under \$4,000, then 16 per cent, 13 per cent, 9 per cent and 6 per cent. Then in British Columbia

the figures are 38 per cent under \$4,000, 13.5 per cent, 14 per cent, 11.5 per cent and 7.5 per cent.

So, from the standpoint of even those provinces which you might call the "have" provinces such as Ontario and British Columbia, more than half the wage earning population receives an income which would not under any circumstances permit the owning of a home. This government's failure to deal with costs is illustrated, I suggest by the lack of action on the task force recommendations and the recommendation of the Carter Royal Commission that the 11 per cent sales tax be removed. There has been a conspicuous failure in this regard on the part of this government, or at least there seemed to be to the former minister because it apparently was largely responsible for his resignation. His own land assembly suggestions were ignored on constitutional grounds.

The new minister has apparently had somewhat more success in this area. He told us today about the amendment that he will be presenting. Incidentally I have had a question on the order paper for several weeks which asks whether the recommendations of the task force were studied with a view to determining whether or not they were constitutional. My understanding, as a result of contacts with reliable sources, is that these recommendations have been found to be constitutional. That was not the Prime Minister's opinion, but the Prime Minister is not a law officer of the Crown. I suggest he should not be a legal advisor to his own government on constitutional matters. There are people being paid very well to perform this function. They have had considerable practical experience over the years with the constitution of Canada, and they are the people whose advice should be sought on these matters. In any event, I have asked the question and in the immortal parlance which exists around here I suppose I will soon get an answer.

Earlier I mentioned the wage level problem across Canada. Perhaps I should also mention that it seems to be the dream of Canadians to own their own homes. This is a dream which is almost impossible of fulfilment for most of them in view of the way things are today. None the less, it is a dream which exists in the hearts and minds of the men and women in this country. The task force report points