

that if they would go back to the barnyard and squawk and scratch on the place where they are more accustomed to being, it would be much better for this house.

Mr. MACKENZIE: What is the point of order?

Mr. HOMUTH: My point of order is this. The minister has accused hon. members on this side of the house of being the emissaries of those who want to make a profit out of building materials and who, he says, are conducting a drive. That is not the truth, because we have in all our small towns people who wish to build houses and who have not the opportunity. I think the minister ought to withdraw that remark.

Mr. MACKENZIE: I protest, Mr. Chairman. That is no point of order.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Sit down.

Mr. MACKENZIE: I will not sit down for any Tory that ever lived.

The CHAIRMAN: The hon. member for Waterloo South has risen on a point of order and the minister can speak to the point of order.

Mr. MACKENZIE: I am saying, Mr. Chairman, that there is no point of order. The minister was criticizing, and quite properly, a matter of policy affecting the party opposite, not a matter affecting any individual member of this house.

The CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order. The hon. member for Prince Edward-Lennox has the floor.

Mr. TUSTIN: I resent the remarks made by the Minister of Munitions and Supply, who is always jumping to his feet and making matters worse, and very often making statements that are not statements of fact. First of all, let me tell the minister that I am not interested in any way, shape or form in the building or lumber industry.

Mr. MACKENZIE: Of course. We all know that.

Mr. TUSTIN: But the minister made a statement implying that I was. So far as I know, the small independent lumber dealer does not object to Wartime Housing buying their lumber wholesale by the carload, but it is a strange thing for the minister to be always emphasizing that they have the right to buy the lumber wholesale when they do not pass on the benefit to the men who are going to live in these small houses.

Mr. McMASTER: I really intended to speak on behalf of the purchaser or occupant of

[Mr. Homuth.]

these houses but, as the hon. member for Regina City has made certain statements and taken out of the books certain figures which he thinks ought to be true, I should like to say a word about the lumber business as I have known it for the past many years. There has been a shortage of lumber for several years, and the reason has been that the government has been a large purchaser of lumber for the erection of buildings, aerodromes and camps. If there had not been a shortage of lumber in the last few years there would not be a shortage of houses to-day, because private enterprise is willing to carry on if it can get the lumber. I do not know where all the lumber is of which the hon. member for Regina City speaks. It is not in or near Toronto. I have clients who are in the lumber business, and they have been trying to get lumber for years. They have been out to the lumber mills all over Ontario trying to buy lumber, and they go out for days at a time, but they cannot get it. If the hon. member actually knows where these dealers in Toronto can get it, he can earn a good commission. If there were not a shortage of lumber the government would not have put a priority on it. But we know there is a shortage, and with that shortage facing us we must do the best we can.

I rise to say something on behalf of the prospective occupants of these houses. I was disturbed when I heard the minister say that only 800 out of a total of 7,000 of these houses were to have foundations.

Mr. HOWE: I did not say that.

Mr. McMASTER: Then give me the figures.

Mr. HOWE: I said basements.

Mr. McMASTER: A basement and a cellar are the same thing.

Mr. HOWE: A basement and a foundation are not the same thing.

Mr. McMASTER: When I said "foundation" I meant "basement." In Toronto we think a house without a cellar is nothing but a shack. I have been practising law for many years, and I have never seen a person who built a house on posts who did not ultimately look forward to putting a basement under it, but you cannot do that as cheaply once the house is built. You have to raise the building, and it is more expensive to put the foundation in then than if you put it in when you are building the house. The government would not need to spend much money in putting basements under these cellars because, up to now at any rate, concrete could have been poured in and the main cost in