

oil and the trades and labour congress dealing with the infraction of the plumbing by-laws of Regina in the construction of Wartime Housing buildings in that city; also there are no basements for the houses constructed for Wartime Housing in the city of Regina. I do not know how it is in Ottawa—

Mr. FRASER: None at all.

Mr. PROBE: Then I would suggest that a simple concrete foundation is insufficient for the rigours of a Saskatchewan winter, whatever may be the situation in the comparatively mild climate of Ottawa.

In support of what my colleague the hon. member for Winnipeg North said, if Wartime Housing structures are not of a temporary nature and if these houses are constructed properly, it would seem to me that \$4,000, which it has been stated is the average price, is a fair figure for them. But we are given to understand that in Regina Wartime Housing has gone only into temporary houses. Is the minister in a position to say whether that is correct or whether the statement he made in the house last night is correct, when he said:

I deny absolutely that we are building an inferior house; I deny that we are building a temporary house.

Mr. HOWE: We are building these houses under an agreement with the city which provides that we turn them over to the city, or at least give the city the option of buying them for a price at the end of ten, twelve or fourteen years. My hon. friend would have some difficulty, if he has read the standard agreement with the city of Regina, in coming to the conclusion that these are temporary houses.

Mr. FRASER: Are they semi-permanent?

Mr. HOWE: No; they are permanent houses.

Mr. PROBE: If they are permanent they definitely require basements in our climate, and further, our labour councils in Regina have stated that the plumbing by-laws of that city are being broken by Wartime Housing.

As to the cost of the land on which Wartime Housing erects its houses, I notice that the Wartime Housing project in Hamilton for 1944 cost the government of Canada \$208,139 for the land, on which were constructed \$4,000,000 worth of Wartime Housing buildings. But in the city of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, the land was apparently given gratis to the government, because no cost of the land is indicated on which Wartime Housing erected buildings of a value of \$138,000.

[Mr. Probe.]

Would the minister state what is the policy with respect to the acquisition of the land, and would he explain why the Hamilton project involved an expenditure of over \$208,000 for the land?

Mr. HOWE: I would assume that the Hamilton project is not a veterans' project but a working-man's project. The arrangements are different for a working-man's project; so are the tax arrangements. The working-man's project which Wartime Housing built earlier in the war called for houses of a temporary nature. We acquired the land and put in our own improvements. After the agreement expires, there must be made with the city a new agreement which I have no doubt will take that into account.

Mr. PROBE: I got those figures from the 1944 public accounts, and I was wanting definite information with respect to them.

Mr. HOWE: The public accounts for 1944 would cover an earlier period when temporary housing was being erected for munitions workers.

Mr. PROBE: Did the city of Moose Jaw donate the land to Wartime Housing?

Mr. HOWE: So far as veterans' houses are concerned, we have a uniform policy right across Canada. If the city wants us to build veterans' houses the city must provide the land within its boundaries. It must be improved land and the city must be prepared to sign a standard agreement.

At six o'clock the committee took recess.

### After Recess

The committee resumed at eight o'clock.

Mr. CARDIFF: It is seldom that I have the urge to detain the house at any length, but to-night, after listening for a considerable time to many speeches made in this chamber with regard to housing, I feel that something should be said about one section of our population which I think is heading down a blind alley. Wartime Housing has in my opinion, bottled up our building industry, and private industry has been bogged down in consequence. Nearly everyone who has spoken on this subject has been a member representing a city riding or some congested area. No doubt these areas are congested and housing is limited. Why? The fact is that our economy is lopsided, and when something is proposed to be done one should go to the source of the trouble. One can go into the country in almost any section and drive over