

Housing Task Force Report

● (2:20 p.m.)

[English]

HOUSINGTABLING OF REPORT OF TASK FORCE ON
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I should like to table two copies in English and two copies in French of the report of the task force on housing and urban development.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

An hon. Member: We have read it in *Time*.

Mr. Hellyer: Yes, it is in time, before the end of January, as I promised you months ago it would be.

Mr. Bell: Just in *Time*.

Mr. Hellyer: This report culminates the work of a task force appointed by the government last August and which since that date has travelled more than 25,000 miles to visit 27 centres across the country. As well as holding formal hearings in each of these centres, the task force made on-site tours of various housing projects and sponsored a series of public meetings to discuss housing and urban problems in a more informal setting with Canadians in general.

In tabling the report I would like to express the appreciation both of the government and of myself to the six distinguished Canadians who participated with me in this inquiry. A word of thanks is due, too, to the many organizations and individuals across the country who took the time to give the task force their views and recommendations on these important subjects.

While this inquiry was carried out within a relatively short period of time, I believe it does represent the most comprehensive review of housing and urban problems undertaken in Canada since the Curtis inquiry almost 25 years ago. As such, I am sure this report, and the work which preceded it, will contribute to greater public discussion and understanding of the many issues which face our country in this area. As minister responsible for housing, I intend very shortly to place before the government recommendations on some of the matters arising out of the report on which I believe urgent action is required.

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, we are glad to see that the Minister of Transport is recovering from his cold. Most of us know how he has been feeling. The minister's career is an illustration of

states in the Middle East that has given encouragement for attacks and counterattacks, and encouragement to refuse to sit down with the state of Israel to discuss the possibility of peace. Surely this is making the job of mediating in this situation almost impossible.

I think that the members of this parliament, and every other parliament of middle sized or small countries throughout the free world, ought to protest in the most vigorous fashion against the deliberate, divisive and dangerous policy of the super powers in the Middle East to the detriment of the future of the peoples there, and of peace throughout the world.

[Translation]

Mr. André Fortin (Lotbinière): Mr. Speaker, the news reaching us from Baghdad is spreading confusion and great concern not only in Canada but throughout the world. We see the frailty of world peace and how heavily the threat of a nuclear war weighs upon the world.

Mr. Speaker, as long as violence is the main weapon used to build peace, to guarantee the security and freedom of individuals and peoples, it is nothing but illusion to think that peace can some day become a reality.

We, of the Ralliement Créditiste, deplore such executions that beget hatred and stir limitless currents of violence.

According to the latest news, 35 other prisoners, 13 of which are Jews, will be brought to trial accused of spying and sabotage. In other words, this is only the start of the ravages.

Mr. Speaker, I think that a peace settlement worked out through the United Nations will only be possible and durable inasmuch as the big powers will stop putting their own interests foremost and will be more concerned about the precariousness of world peace.

I would urge the Secretary of State for External Affairs to support wholeheartedly the appeal made by U Thant, secretary general of the United Nations, who asked the big powers to co-operate in order to find a quick solution in the Middle East. We hope that such a solution will settle efficiently the problem of peace in the Middle East which, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs put it, has been suffering for too long, thereby indicating that the present situation is in fact a cold war rather than a true state of peace.