

Tight Money Policy

amendments have not dried up but are still available.

As I said earlier, Mr. Speaker, this house in 1965 approved an amendment which increased the funds provided by the legislation in 1964 by an amount of \$300 million in order to carry out the purpose and intent of those amendments. So again I reiterate that there is no shortage of money for urban renewal; there is no shortage of money for public housing; there is no shortage of money for university housing accommodation; and there is no shortage of money to house the elderly citizens of this country. All one need do is to apply for assistance, and the co-operation which I know has been extended by C.M.H.C. to the provincial governments and the municipalities will be similarly extended to all applicants.

There is also no shortage of money for federal-provincial projects with respect to rental housing related to income, the so-called geared-to-income housing. The federal government has such funds available and there is no drying up of funds for this purpose.

If I go on at length, Mr. Speaker, about housing and urban development legislation passed in 1964 it is because I want to dispel any suggestions which may have been put forward by hon. members opposite to the effect that there is a general drying up of funds to assist a very important sector of our economy, namely funds for housing for our low-income groups—the geared-to-income housing for low-income families and the elderly citizens of the country.

I for one have been greatly interested in the question of urban renewal, and I feel that our provinces and cities have to move to institute a crash program across the country. I have just returned from a 10-day tour across the country as a member of the transportation committee of this house, which has been holding hearings relating to the C.P.R. passenger service. While in the western cities we made ourselves aware of certain problems presently existing.

● (5:50 p.m.)

I, with my interest in housing and urban development, have noted that in cities such as Vancouver and Calgary, and even in smaller cities such as Brandon, Moose Jaw, Medicine Hat and Winnipeg, urban renewal schemes have been undertaken or are in progress. It

[Mr. Macaluso.]

would be sad if the impression were left from anything said in this house that funds available for such projects had in fact been dried up by the federal government. That is not the case. I suggest that if a province or a municipality falls down with respect to urban renewal or public housing, for which there is a great need approaching emergency proportions, then it is the fault of such province or municipality. It is a local problem.

I have said in the house before and I now reiterate that the federal government should set up a department of housing and urban affairs to help, together with the provinces and the municipalities, in the solution of the urban problem. I do not ask the government to encroach on other jurisdictions. We must take a broad outlook at the real problem concerning housing and urban renewal. I am sure that if the provinces and municipalities can co-operate under the present legislation there is no reason why they could not co-operate with the present government if a department of housing and urban affairs were set up. We need co-ordination in that respect.

Although housing and urban renewal are the particular prerogatives of the provinces and municipalities, I must nevertheless commend the Minister of Labour (Mr. Nicholson), who is responsible for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and for the administration of the National Housing Act, for his action in going across the country when these amendments were passed in 1964 and holding in conjunction with the provinces what were termed "symposiums". These were held not only with the provinces and municipalities but with public service organizations, service clubs and other people across this country and had to do with the legislation which had been passed in 1947. In effect he said to all those attending: Do it and we will help you; the funds are there, so kindly make an application; should you fall down on this job, then you have only yourselves to blame.

I say again that my main purpose in rising to take part in this debate is to dispel the impression left by the generalized amendment now before us with respect to the work which has been done in the fields of urban renewal and public housing, particularly as they affect low income groups and elderly citizens. I want to dispel the impression left by some members opposite who wish to portray across this country that the government has dried up the source of funds to do this important work. That is not the case.