

*National Housing Act*

made was correct or not, it must work both ways, and it is not for the parliamentary assistant to override a ruling made on the objection raised by the minister.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have read the references made on this question by hon. members yesterday; I have also read the remarks of Mr. Speaker, and I cannot find that Mr. Speaker made a ruling to the effect that any reference to Wallis house was out of order. In fact, after Mr. Speaker had made his remarks, I find, at page 4165 of *Hansard*, that Mr. Coldwell referred to Wallis house and said he had seen conditions there, and no point of order was raised at that time. I therefore rule that the hon. member for Ottawa West may continue with his remarks.

Mr. GRAYDON: The minister is going to raise another point of order on you.

Mr. NICHOLSON: He just got in, in time.

Mr. McILRAITH: The hon. member for Eglinton seemed greatly concerned about it, but if he had read a little more of *Hansard* to the house he would see how ridiculous and unfair his position is. Be that as it may, hon. members can draw their own conclusion—

Mr. NICHOLSON: It was the minister who raised the point.

Mr. McILRAITH:—from the parts he read and the parts that were not read. The fact remains that yesterday the hon. member for Rosetown-Biggart did speak at some length about it and left what I consider an incomplete picture of the conditions there.

I thought it only fair, since the house is voting money for emergency shelter, that hon. members should know just how that emergency shelter is administered and where that authority dealing with the actual control of the tenants lies. If hon. members are not interested in that, I am not concerned in pressing the matter at all.

Perhaps I can deal with some matters that are squarely in order, even in the opinion of all hon. members opposite. Wallis house, I might add for the benefit of some members who were not here yesterday, is an emergency shelter undertaking in the city of Ottawa, housing fifty-four families. Perhaps I will not say more about it now. It seems to me that when we are on the bill we should deal with some of the responsibility for it, since it has been raised and given wide publicity.

[Mr. Fleming.]

There is this, however, about emergency shelter generally, and it is well to recall to the chamber just what emergency shelter authority is and how it arose. It arose in 1944, at the end of the year, under the war-time prices and trade board, and it was later transferred, as of January 1, 1946, to the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The purpose of it was simply to provide a co-ordinated agency to assist the municipalities in seeing that maximum use was made of available housing units, and in providing temporary emergency accommodation for families who, through no fault of their own, were without accommodation.

The point I wish to make is that it was never the intention of the emergency shelter administration that emergency shelter units should be regarded as semi-permanent homes for individual families. It was rather intended to assure people who found themselves without shelter that they would be kept warm and dry while they tried to find more permanent accommodation.

Through emergency shelter the type of thing that was done was (a) to lease to the municipalities, on nominal rentals, surplus crown-owned buildings located near congested areas which were suitable for conversion into temporary emergency accommodation, and (b) to make definite grants to municipalities to assist in financing initial costs in converting or building emergency shelter units.

Up to the present time some 8,500 emergency shelter units have been created, and commitments to the municipalities have been in the neighbourhood of \$4,650,000. The original value of crown-owned buildings leased to municipalities on a nominal rental for emergency shelter purposes is about \$8,250,000. In addition to assisting municipalities, there was some rather active work in assisting universities with the special problem they had with married veteran students.

Some thirteen universities had been assisted in providing a total of 1,439 units. The federal government contributed \$1,075,000 toward the cost of providing these units of building—that is, crown-leased buildings—to the universities for emergency shelter purposes at an original value of \$1,250,000.

I thought these statistics would be helpful in getting the discussion of emergency shelter back upon its base.

Mr. NICHOLSON: Has the hon. member the rents charged in Saskatchewan as compared with other provinces?

Mr. McILRAITH: I have not them here.