

*Request for Housing Statement*

by Dr. Albert Rose of the University of Toronto. He said:

The most important change that could be made in our national housing policy would be a formal declaration that the federal and provincial governments intended, during the balance of this century, to discriminate in favour of families and individuals at the bottom half of the income ladder.

I think this is very good advice for the minister in charge of housing as well as the government. I urge the minister to get on the ball and get the Mundy Pond urban renewal scheme under way in order to fulfil the promises that have been made for the past ten years. The government should show that it cares about these people, is aware of their problems and will do everything possible to alleviate this situation.

**Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North):** Mr. Speaker, just over a year ago when the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) was chided about the housing emergency, he flourished a set of figures purporting to show that in the year 1969, 225,000 housing units would be built. He stated that was within the target set by the Economic Council of Canada for the five-year period 1969 to 1973, and that in fact there was no housing crisis.

The *Toronto Star*, certainly not an anti-Liberal newspaper, on May 10, 1969, ran an editorial commenting on that view expressed by the Prime Minister. The editorial was headed "But Pierre Baby, There is a Crisis". What was said in that editorial is essentially true today. There is no housing crisis in the constituency of Mount Royal which the Prime Minister represents. There is no housing crisis in the constituency of Westmount, which is represented by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Drury). There is no pressing need in the constituency represented by the hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Kaplan) who suggested there was no need to hit the target of 250,000 homes in any particular year to reach the objective set by the Economic Council; there is no housing crisis in the constituency of Winnipeg South, particularly on Wellington Crescent which the minister knows so well. So I was not surprised when I did not hear very much from the Prime Minister about the housing crisis.

● (4:30 p.m.)

But I was disappointed in the speech made by the Minister without Portfolio in charge of housing (Mr. Andras). He told us that while starts were running at only 160,000 units for the year, he expected we would do better

than that and build between 180,000 and 185,000 units. That figure falls far short of what the Economic Council said we needed. I give the government credit; the minister told us we would build 35,000 public housing units this year, and this is better than we have done for many years. But the number is still small in comparison to the need. There are 100,000 families or more waiting for accommodation and it is obvious we are falling further behind in meeting our housing needs every year. I say this bearing in mind the need, not of 210,000 units a year but of the 250,000 units mentioned by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and I say it without going into all the catastrophic effects of increased housing prices on the ordinary person.

A few years ago, ten years ago, when we talked about people in the lower income brackets, we were talking about people who were making less than \$60 a week. Now, we are talking about people who are making less than \$100 a week. But these are not the only people who are in trouble. Eighty-five per cent of the people of this country are in trouble if they do not have their own homes. In cities like Toronto, unless a man earns between \$8,000 or \$9,000 a year he cannot even qualify to get a house under the provisions governing the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. The interest rate on mortgages is now running at more than 10 per cent, which means that the vast majority are locked out of the possibility of house purchase, or else they are buying houses by cutting back on the most essential needs such as food and clothing.

I have a great deal of respect for this minister, for the job he tried to do when he was concerned with Indian Affairs and for the job he is trying to do now. For this reason, I was particularly sorry to hear him adopt the complacent view he took today. Those of us who are interested in the problems of housing, and in ordinary people, know that this minister is probably more interested in these questions than are all the other cabinet ministers put together. When he takes a complacent view, I can only say we are in real trouble. We in this party have consistently taken the view that the estimate of 250,000 units a year is a conservative one. And we are failing to meet that objective by 25 per cent this year. If the housing needs of the people are to be met, then housing must be given a much higher priority both federally and provincially within the economy. We agree with the con-