

## EVIDENCE

MAY 7, 1952.  
9.30 a.m.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, we have a quorum.

If you will refer to Mr. Mansur's presentation of yesterday we will turn to page 4. I assume there will be no questions on the first 3 pages.

Mr. FLEMING: May I ask a few general questions, Mr. Chairman?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

**Mr. D. B. Mansur, President of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, called:**

*By Mr. Fleming:*

Q. These questions are very general, Mr. Chairman. Naturally I am not asking him about policy so much as administration, I do not propose to go into that field. That probably would be a question for the minister. But I wonder if Mr. Mansur would tell us what, in the administration of the Housing Act and all the various schemes provided for under it, is the guiding principle—to get houses built? Is it to administer the finances of the corporation carefully? What is the principal guiding aim of the corporation in administration?—A. Well, Mr. Chairman, I think the guiding aim is perhaps twofold, both of which have been mentioned by the honourable member: that is in administration to do the very best we can to see that the principles of the National Housing Act are made as largely applicable as possible and in so doing make sure that the administration will bear scrutiny in regard to its having been done properly and economically. Now, it may be that the question is directed towards the primary activity. Members will recall that up to 1939, I think the record year for loans under the National Housing Act was some 5,000 units. I think that any doubt which might exist about our desire to increase activities under the Housing Act will be removed when I tell you that, during the year 1950, 42,000 units were approved under the National Housing Act. That represented a lot of organizational, promotional, educational and all other work necessary to expand activities under the Act, as was done between 1946 and 1950. So, also, in consequence of the Act we have done everything we could to insure that people using the facilities of the Act can get houses with reasonable ease.

Now, in so doing there always must be the closest relationship between the promotional work on the one side and what might be considered good business on the other. That is always plaguing us because in an organization such as ours there are people whose sole idea is how quickly can we expand, and you have people who say: yes, we should expand, we should make these facilities available to all, but we should do it at a prudent fashion. So, I would suggest, Mr. Chairman, that the answer to the question is that we do our best to make the facilities available always with an eye on as much housing as possible, and we hope the manner in which we do it is prudent.

Q. Well, in other words, respecting the two things of which I have spoken and which are both in the question and the answer, are they within the scope of the scheme of the corporation under its administration? I take it you are not putting one above another, you speak about holding them in balance?—A. Yes. I think there is a certain balance, but I do think that the circumstances at