

the frontiers to raise crops and babies, they are all a little tired now and their needs are changing. This is directed more to the needs of veterans today, and I think Legion branches and other veterans' groups across the country have extremely good programs of which to take advantage and under which to build housing designed for the needs of veterans today. This is in addition to assistance under AHOP.

The hon. member for Winnipeg North also expressed his concern about quality as opposed to quantity. I do not know that we oppose either. They are just separate elements in the whole housing equation. I share his interest and concern. This is, of course, the reason for our neighbourhood improvement program, for our residential rehabilitation program, and also for a great deal of study which is going into this whole area not only in third sector housing but in community development, new communities and inner-core development which is so terribly important in the hon. member's home city of Winnipeg and where we are working on a trilevel basis in an attempt to improve these elements. But there is still a great deal more we have to know. Statistics Canada is now engaged in a very comprehensive housing survey for CMHC, information from which will be coming on stream very soon and it will tell us much about the present housing needs, housing standards and future housing needs of Canadians.

Further to that, we have our demonstration and development programs which are designed to deal with settlement patterns in small communities, as I mentioned, in the inner city and in satellite communities. It is involved in technological innovation, the autonomous servicing of units, the recycling of waste, sewage and garbage—

Mr. Stanfield: Meat?

Mr. Danson: —in construction techniques and productivity, alternatives to housing, mixed uses of housing, new forms of housing and greater flexibility of planning and designing.

An hon. Member: And swimming pools?

Mr. Danson: With regard to design, my hon. friend referred to the competitions sponsored by CMHC in housing design. I do not have the precise answer at my finger tips relating to those which deal with low-income and multi-family housing, but the point is not only well made but is one which the corporation and I have been discussing. We saw excellent designs which won awards, but not enough directed at the area of housing into which we are putting our greatest concentration. The corporation recognizes that because it is involved in demonstration projects taking place right here in Ottawa to develop new standards, better quality housing and low cost housing.

One thing I did see on the trip to Europe was a kind of special allocation for families buying housing which was quite adequate. It was not up to our standards, but it was a standard I think most young families would be happy with if they could afford it. I think it is important to aim for something quite livable and affordable so that people can get a start in the housing market, whether it is ownership or rental. From there, I think we must consider what has been done in some of the countries to which my hon. friend referred, which I visited with officials of the corpo-

Housing

ration and the ministry, and develop their ideas also so that they meet our particular standards.

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In some cases they had the right amount of space, but were built for different climatic conditions. In other cases they settled for density and a height that we would not find acceptable. In other countries there was housing which I think would be totally unacceptable to Canadians even though the planning aspects were good and the housing might have been a big improvement over what the people of those countries enjoy today. I do not think we should try to emulate that in this country, however. Nevertheless, there was that concern. We are addressing ourselves to the problem, and shall continue to do so. As the hon. member suggested, I would not mind spending the summer visiting those other countries to see their programs. I will see what my priorities are.

Mr. Stanfield: He asked you to spend the summer thinking about it.

Mr. Danson: The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) suggests I spend the summer thinking. That is not a bad idea. One of the most frustrating parts of this business is wondering if one's ideas get to the public. They might be looking around this House today at the empty seats, wondering where the members are. At least we know that these men and women are working, that they are out in the country and at committees. We do not have a chance to refresh ourselves and see the work we are doing, in perspective. Sometimes we react too much to the urgent, rather than the important, so any opportunity to get away and look at things in perspective is valuable. I accept that and I will try to do it this summer. As it happens, I think best in my boat with a fishing rod in my hand, rather than travelling around the country. If I can get a few days of that, I will come back refreshed and vigorous to do the other work.

The hon. member for Bellechasse (Mr. Lambert) raised a number of interesting points. I never cease to be amazed at his knowledge and interest in regard to housing. Indeed, sometimes it puts me to shame. I am not sure of the precise circumstances regarding the Neighbourhood Improvement Program for Montmagny, but I shall look into it. He also spoke about the problem of identifying these programs and getting sufficient information on them. He suggests that in Quebec things are of a different nature than in other parts of the country.

I think it is important in all parts of the country that these programs are recognized and the people know what the federal government is doing. This applies as much in western Canada where they are not blessed with as many Liberals as Quebec. It is not a matter of partisan politics in Quebec but it is a matter of something that everyone in this House is concerned about. We are concerned about the unity of this country, not only in constitutional terms but—I hate to use the word “spiritual” terms, but we are concerned that there is an understanding that the federal system is working.

It is certain that the work we do here is extremely important. Although we may argue about programs and the way they are implemented, I think we are all commit-