

Business of Supply

whipping boy. I would be interested in knowing who wrote this report. Surely, it would not be the minister. I would be interested in knowing who signed this report because not one signature appears to it.

There must have been some difference of opinion among the members who composed the task force. Yet, there is not a single dissenter. I ask the minister who wrote the report? Were there dissenters with regard to these recommendations?

Mr. Hellyer: No dissenter.

Mr. Gilbert: The minister has just said "no dissenter." I am really surprised.

Mr. Hellyer: A unanimous report.

Mr. Gilbert: I am surprised at the parrot-like performance of the members of the task force, especially when one realizes the composition of that force. First of all, there is the chairman who has a record as a successful builder. Then, there is Dr. Boyle, a sociologist, whose main effort in Toronto was to tell some people in a public housing project that they should not have a telephone so they would be able to save up the down payment for a house; Mr. Carter, a mortgage manager, Mr. Campeau, another successful builder, Dr. Gillies, an economist, Dr. Dansereau an ecologist, and Dr. Pratt, an architect. The chairman never thought of asking for a representative from the trade union movement. He never had a representative on the force from any consumer group, or from any public housing authority. Is it any wonder the report is so slanted?

There are a few things in the report which I would like to draw to the attention of the minister. First, I would like to see him set up the new Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to encourage, support and co-ordinate expanded urban research programs with greater priority on the initiation of practical research programs including private projects. Why not do that now? We have a bill before us to reorganize government departments. Why not set up this new department so that the minister can set forth a program worth following? Why doesn't the minister give leadership instead of hiding behind the constitution? Why doesn't he set up this new ministry to assess the housing needs of all Canadians, and program, finance and direct the proper mix of residential homes, apartments, public housing, senior citizens' housing and co-operatives?

[**Mr. Gilbert.**]

• (8:30 p.m.)

The minister well knows that the provinces cannot do it alone. This possibly is one of the reasons he supported the recommendation to establish a separate ministry. Now, he has an opportunity under the reorganization bill to do something and I would ask him to appoint a minister to get on with the job. There is a certain aspect in respect of finance. Why does the minister not give a new direction to financing? The report says we need one million homes in the next five years. This is approximately 200,000 units a year. I find this rather surprising because Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation had a projection of 225,000 homes. I might ask why there is this difference. I imagine the minister could quite easily tell us because he is so well informed on this particular subject. We in the New Democratic party set 250,000 homes as the figure to take care of the short-fall in previous years.

The minister knows that in 1966 we added 134,000 homes, in 1967 we added 164,000 homes and in 1968 we added 196,000 homes. The minister knows the appreciable short-falls we have had in the past years. Why does he not accept the target set by C.M.H.C. of 225,000 homes? Having done that, I would ask the minister to call the financial institutions to Ottawa right now and obtain written commitments from the insurance companies, trust and loan companies, banks and other financial institutions. With a target date of March 15, I suggest that he should bring them down and obtain written commitments from them that the necessary mortgage money will be available. Then, by August 15 if they have not lived up to their written commitments, the necessary legislation could be introduced. The builders then would have a steady flow of mortgage moneys and we would have a definite building program for this year.

Last August when we faced a housing shortage, the minister called representatives of the finance institutions down to Ottawa and asked them to put more money into housing. They flatly refused. You will recall, Mr. Chairman, that the people had to get money, which was government money marked for public housing, and direct it into the housing needs of Canada. So, I suggest that the minister should not depend on the social conscience of these financial institutions but should obtain their written commitments by March 15. Then, if by August 15 they have not lived up to those commitments, pass the necessary legislation.