

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

speak very briefly about a problem which fits into both categories. I have in mind the question of housing.

It was recently announced by the Department of National Defence that the Oshawa wireless station would be available for disposal on March 31, 1969. This station is located on 275 acres of land. As soon as this announcement was made a number of interested citizens in my constituency immediately raised the question concerning the suitability of this land for housing. This is the reason I say the issue is both of local and national concern. Housing is a national problem.

Specifically three organizations in my constituency, the United Automobile Workers of America, Local 222; the Royal Canadian Legion, Oshawa Branch 431 and the Canadian Corps Association, unit 42 of Oshawa, all approached me on the question of inquiring about the suitability of this land for housing for veterans. I made such an inquiry and have been advised that a feasibility study is being carried on in respect of this land, to see whether it would be appropriate for the construction of homes for veterans.

My point, which I attempted to raise in the house the other day, is whether the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer), who is responsible for housing, would commit himself to the view, if the feasibility study that is being carried out on this land turns out to be positive in nature, that this land which is in the midst of a large metropolitan region would be used for the construction of homes. Would the minister in fact assure the house that some arrangement will be made for this public land to be used for housing, and more particularly that it will be used for this purpose without being turned over to private speculators?

● (10:20 p.m.)

Mr. Chairman, because my question was ruled out of order at the time I posed it, I have discussed the matter in this form this evening. So far, most of my requests on

behalf of my constituents on this matter have been in the interests of veterans. Whether or not it would be equitable to use the entire 275 acres for veterans is a question I have not completely settled in my own mind. Certainly a good portion of this land should be used for this purpose, provided it is suitable. The main question seems to be whether the minister responsible for housing will ensure that, if this public land is suitable for this purpose the government will make it available.

[*Translation*]

Hon. Jean Chrétien (Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development): Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the member for having drawn this problem, which concerns his riding to the attention of the house.

As he said himself, this is a problem on which we are not yet ready to make a decision, since it necessitates preliminary studies regarding the possibility of establishing housing lots in that part of the land which belongs to the Department of National Defence. However, I can assure him that the hon. Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer), who is in charge of the housing problems in Canada, will certainly take into account the representations which have been made in the house and, if necessary, will negotiate with his former department, in order to make the best possible use of those lands in the interest of all Canadians.

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Pursuant to provisional standing order 39A a motion to adjourn the house is now deemed to be adopted. Accordingly this house stands adjourned until 2.30 p.m. tomorrow afternoon.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.25 p.m.

[The following items were passed in Committee of Supply this day:]

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE AND COMMERCE
1, 3, 5, 10, 15, L75, L80.

END OF VOLUME III