

National Housing Act

lending in designated urban renewal areas there was no suggestion in any provincial quarter that its provisions be extended to existing housing anywhere. It will be recalled that the hon. Member for Qu'Appelle made somewhat the same ploy. Had either or both of these gentlemen attended the symposium convened by the Minister in Toronto on December 17, as I did for two days, they would have heard the Minister state firmly that the Federal Government is prepared to do its part, but that the initiative must properly come from a municipality with the concurrence or involvement of its Provincial Government. I should be glad, if it would help, to send a copy of the Minister's address to these hon. Members so that they may read in context what the Minister had to say.

Many hon. Members, including myself, would like to see the Federal Government extending N.H.A. lending to existing housing. However, the Federal Government cannot dictate to the provinces in this field, nor would it be wise to give the appearance of doing so. The provinces should give some indication that legislation along these lines would be welcome. I am sure that every day more and more representatives of provincial and municipal levels of government are becoming sold on the idea of the extension of N.H.A. benefits to existing housing, and I am also of the opinion that when a consensus in favour of the extension has been reached there will be further amendments to the National Housing Act. I think that N.H.A. loans on existing homes should contain a provision to the effect that necessary interior alterations be made in the winter months as a winter works measure.

I wish to comment briefly on the observations made by the hon. Member for Roberval, who urged a more widespread program of information and education on the matters we have been debating. I know the information service of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is geared to focus attention on the assistance available to provinces and municipalities, and that all media are employed in this continuing program. In addition to this service the Corporation's field personnel are in constant liaison with provincial and municipal officials. We should not forget, Mr. Chairman, the very intensive campaign which has been and is still being carried out by the Minister and senior officials of the Corporation in arranging and conducting housing symposia in major centres across Canada. These conferences are attended by literally

hundreds of key people—elected and appointed, provincial and municipal officials—and by individuals, and representatives of groups and organizations interested in housing. I suggest these meetings constitute a formidable front-line attack.

The National Housing Act also provides generously for loans for student housing projects. A loan may be up to 90 per cent of the cost as determined by C.M.H.C. The recent announcement of a \$2½ million loan for the construction of student residences in my riding of Spadina is a most welcome one, coming as it did just as a student residence crisis was in the making. The announcement made on May 7 by Hon. John R. Nicholson, the Minister responsible for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation administration was in response to many representations for extra accommodation for university students. Practically all suitable accommodation close to the University of Toronto has been demolished or has been taken up, and this provision fills a great need. Many students have been accustomed to living in rooming houses in the Spadina area and, with the constant demolition of buildings for university expansion and other progressive projects, they have been forced to move out. I am aware of some cases where students have been seeking accommodation as far away as Scarborough and the western lake shore. This means two hours a day travelling time and reduces their study time. With the ever-increasing weight of the curriculum this creates a serious problem for them. The accommodation which will be built under the new loan will provide living quarters for 552 students and 12 dons and will do much to relieve a situation which is detrimental to the entire community. This \$2½ million N.H.A. loan will be repayable over a period of 50 years with interest at 5¾ per cent per annum. This is Liberal accommodation for accommodation.

I am happy to report that there is to be more face-lifting in Spadina due to Federal Government assistance and local initiative. In this connection I should like to quote an excerpt from the *Globe and Mail* of this morning, May 13. Headed, "Givens to Drive Sledge: Alexandra Project Under Way", the article goes on to say:

● (4:50 p.m.)

Mayor Philip Givens will drive a sledge into an old semi-detached house at 110-112 Augusta Street at ten o'clock Saturday morning in ceremonies signalling the start of the city's \$17 million Alexandra Park housing program.