

constant surveillance of the R.C.M.P. I should like the minister to tell us whether the services of the R.C.M.P. have been requested by the municipal authorities of Saint-Léonard or by the Quebec provincial authorities. If so, can he tell us the purpose of this surveillance?

Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, I shall take the question as notice and discuss it with the Solicitor General.

Mr. Asselin: Mr. Speaker, a supplementary question. Could the minister give the house a detailed report in reply to this question within the next few days?

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I shall convey the suggestion of the hon. member to the Solicitor General.

[English]

HOUSING

REPORTED DROP IN STARTS IN SEPTEMBER

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of Transport arising out of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation report just released which shows an alarming drop in housing starts during September. Will the minister say whether there has been a change in the government's position as stated by the minister last August that Canada will achieve 185,000 housing starts in 1968? Is this still the government's objective and expectation?

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, my hon. friend will recall that the government took steps a month or so ago to make moneys available so that an additional 10,000 units could be started this year. At that time, as I recall it, the announcement was rather cynically received on the other side of the house. However, I am still hopeful that the moneys which are currently being made available by the chartered banks and other lending institutions, in addition to that which is made available directly by C.M.H.C., will allow us to achieve the very high figure which I had indicated earlier.

Mr. Stanfield: I do not wish to be unnecessarily persistent, but the minister stated he is hopeful. Is this still his expectation?

Mr. Hellyer: Sometimes there is a very fine line between hope and expectation. It is difficult to estimate because of the uncertainty

Inquiries of the Ministry

in respect of the capital markets. I cannot guarantee what the results will be. I hope, however, that we will achieve the high figure previously indicated. If not, I can assure my hon. friend that if he will allow me to carry on with the housing inquiry that is now under way in the interests of the Canadian people, we will try to bring forward remedial measures which will allow us to reach an even higher figure next year.

Mr. Stanfield: I rise on a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I am not a particularly combative individual and I am sure I do not need to remind the minister that he need not seek my permission to engage in his present sojourn.

Mr. Hellyer: I had understood some of your followers were disapproving.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, might I take this opportunity—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants): Mr. Speaker, his question is addressed to the minister and arises from a statement made in Vancouver to the effect that more research is needed into Canada's housing problems because the most important thing learned by the task force to date is how little we really know about the subject. Is it still the intention of the government to table the task force report within 30 days of the completion of hearings and to bring in housing legislation very shortly thereafter?

Mr. Hellyer: Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes.

Mr. Stanfield: I have a further supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. In view of the fact that the annual rate of housing starts fell to 155,000 in the month of September, can the minister indicate whether the government is prepared to make more money available for housing if this becomes necessary in order to meet his objective of 185,000 units this year?

Mr. Hellyer: I hope this will not be necessary.

SHIPPING

CHURCHILL—REQUEST FOR REPORT ON EXTENSION OF SEASON

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, may I answer a question asked