

great many other companies in Canada—de Havilland and many other industrial companies—in which the government have a certain control at this time. Can the minister tell the committee what the policy is in regard to such companies as that?

Mr. HOWE: De Havilland Aircraft is a private company. For a time we have had a controllership on the plant on account of the large advances to the plant for the Mosquito programme. The Mosquito programme has been ended; the advances are liquidated, and we are in process of turning the plant back to its owners.

Mr. COCKERAM: I understand there are many companies like that in the dominion.

Mr. FERGUSON: We have heard to-day that the cost of the houses constructed under Wartime Housing was \$4,190. I presume that is for the house—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to remind the hon. member that the item he refers to is carried.

Mr. FERGUSON: That is quite correct, but I also understand that we are able to refer back to the various items. That has been the procedure, I understand.

The CHAIRMAN: May I remind the hon. member that the arrangement was that the item would carry, and that it could not be referred to again, unless in connection with a question which would be answered later. However, I am in the hands of the committee, and if the hon. member has only one question, perhaps he might be allowed to ask it.

Mr. FERGUSON: That has been the procedure in other committees, that we could refer back.

Some hon. MEMBERS: No.

The CHAIRMAN: I do not wish to be insistent. My suggestion would be that, with the consent of the committee, the hon. member might be allowed to ask a question.

Mr. FERGUSON: This is not a case of a Toronto lawyer going into the building business. It is the case of a man in the building business disputing figures. I am familiar with these houses which are to cost \$4,100. The minister has said that no private corporation could build these buildings as cheaply as he is building them. I dispute his word. If I, as a private builder, were able to figure the loading charges on these buildings that rent at \$22 a month I could build for less than the government. The hidden charges

[Mr. Cockeram.]

on these buildings built by the government would put the cost under government construction up to about \$7,000.

I sell solid brick houses in Toronto for \$10,500. They have a living room of twenty-three feet by fourteen feet six inches. If you want the facts, I will give them to you. I know something about the building business.

Mr. JACKMAN: Would the minister say what is to happen to the four Lancasters now flying the Atlantic route after Trans-Canada Air Lines acquire new aircraft for the oceanic service?

Mr. HOWE: I presume that, like all other planes we have, they will be used until they are worn out.

Mr. JACKMAN: By Trans-Canada Air Lines or some other service?

Mr. HOWE: They are owned by the government. I presume they will go over to the air force.

Mr. JACKMAN: I do not understand what disposition will be made of miscellaneous equipment, which includes four aircraft. I understand at the present time they are flying the Atlantic route. They are government-owned, but operated by Trans-Canada Air Lines. Trans-Canada Air Lines look forward to spending \$20 million of the taxpayers' money in acquiring aircraft to operate the transatlantic route. What is in the mind of the minister or the government in connection with the future use of those four aircraft? Are they to become part and parcel of Trans-Canada Air Lines, or will they always be operated as a separate unit, owned by the government, but operated by Trans-Canada Air Lines, and not integrated so far as ownership is concerned with the other Trans-Canada assets?

Mr. HOWE: Trans-Canada may want to buy them; I am not sure. I wish I could look into the future, as my hon. friend would wish me to do. If I could, I could answer his questions. However, at the present time those planes are owned by the government and are operated by Trans-Canada for government account. It will be some time before Trans-Canada can get the full complement of new planes, and they will use these in the meantime. Whether they buy them or rent them, I cannot say.

Mr. JACKMAN: Are they being used entirely for government service?

Mr. HOWE: For official passengers, and for mail.