

have to be tabled before we can discuss them, then I would suggest they be tabled as soon as possible and made the subject of a further inquiry before the appropriate committee of this house.

**Hon. Donald Cameron:** Honourable senators, I would like to ask the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Aseltine) whether there is any intention, when this new money is made available, to permit the National Housing Act to be used for building university residences. There was some discussion last winter to the effect that section 16, which seemed to be the appropriate section, might be modified in such a way that universities could be looked upon as limited dividend corporations and National Housing Act funds made available to them.

If the plans are not advanced to where that can be done with this new money, my second question is: Does the Government contemplate making such an amendment to the act in the near future?

Some honourable senators will recall that on December 3 last I dealt with the subject of the university residence situation in the course of an address I made in the Senate. At that time I had completed a survey of Canadian universities, in which I had asked for the number of residence rooms at each university, the number of students living in residence, the number living at home, and the number living in boarding houses. About 60 per cent of the institutions gave me the information I asked for.

Just to show how serious the situation is, I would like to give again some figures showing what the picture is now and what it is likely to look like 10 years from now with the increased enrollment in universities. The number of residence rooms in those universities replying to the questionnaire was 6,663; these rooms accommodated 7,570 students. It was estimated that 50 per cent of the total university population of 85,000, namely 42,500, lived at home, and the remainder, approximately 35,000, lived in boarding houses of varying degrees of quality. It is generally accepted that university enrolment will increase substantially, and probably will double in the next ten years. If that is so, the university student population in 1968 will be approximately 200,000. The intentions to build, as given last November by the universities, indicated that the amount of student residence accommodation might be doubled. That was a very optimistic estimate at that time. In other words, by 1968 we might be able to accommodate in the university residences some 15,000 students. On the basis that 50 per cent of the students would be living at home, there would be 100,000 living

in their homes, which would leave 85,000 students in boarding houses.

I would suggest, honourable senators, that this is one place in which the Central Mortgage and Housing Act and the National Housing Act could be put to exceedingly constructive use, and I hope that before long plans will be made by the Government to make possible the use of the funds granted under the National Housing Act for the building of university residences.

I need not stress to a group like this honourable body the great contribution to the total educative process that is made by the opportunity for students to live and work together in a residence. A student who has not had the advantage of living in a good residence misses a great deal in his university career. I would suggest, therefore, that we do something about it at the earliest possible moment.

In closing, may I say that I think the accomplishments under the terms of the National Housing Act have been very fine, but I would like to support my colleagues from Northumberland-Miramichi (Hon. Mr. Burchill) and St. John's West (Hon. Mr. Pratt), who have said there is one big gap in the program at the present time, namely, the need for houses for people in the low income bracket. I see no reason why we should not take steps at an early date to bring these people under the act as well.

**Hon. A. Neil McLean:** Honourable senators, I have one or two suggestions to make for the consideration of the Leader of the Government in connection with this bill.

I notice that the money that is proposed to be used as loans for house building will come from the consolidated revenue fund. I agree with other honourable senators who have said that 6 per cent interest rate is out of line with present day conditions, if the rate is not going to be flexible.

In connection with the Beechwood Power project legislation, which was at a low interest rate, and a small commission charge for the bookkeeping, I asked whether, if the interest rate to the federal Government went down, the rate on the loans would be flexible, and I was told that it would be.

We know that when the Governor of the Bank of Canada and the ex-President of the New York Stock Exchange, now President of the United States Federal Reserve Bank, started putting the bank interest rate up, it took several months—almost a year—for it to permeate our economic system. The same thing will happen when the rate goes down, if my experience serves me right. The rate is being steadily lowered. Those who were responsible for putting the rate up are now