

The Address—Mr. Noseworthy

government annuity and the veteran who is getting veterans allowance. I want to state right here, Mr. Speaker, that the veteran who is getting veterans allowance has bought that allowance and paid for it. He has paid for it by service. He may not be getting a disability pension because some doctor or doctors failed to be able to trace the disability back to war service. I say that no doctor can at this far date tell just what has been the effect of war service upon the health of anyone who has seen such service. The men receiving war veterans allowances are getting them because of their service; it is not just something given to them by the government as a charitable gift. Surely they have as much right to that as those who buy government annuities have to their annuities, or as those who have been pensioned because of a doctor's report have to their pension. The government is being very mean to those on war veterans allowances when it deducts the amount they will receive by way of old age pension.

The government have tacitly admitted that they made a mistake in not referring to an increase in basic disability pensions when they brought down the speech from the throne, and they remedied that error later on in the session. I suggest that they now admit tacitly that they made a mistake in not referring in the speech from the throne to legislation in connection with war veterans allowances, and that the Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Lapointe) graciously accept this suggestion and indicate that the government is willing to bring in such legislation this session. Then the subamendment can be withdrawn. I suggest this in the interests of the many veterans who will not be able to draw much solace from the promise of a committee next winter when they are forced to buy coal and food. The government should give these veterans the assurance that an increase will be forthcoming in war veterans allowances at the same time as the increase in the disability pension.

Yesterday we listened to an interesting exchange between the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming) and the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Martin) on housing. The hon. member for Eglinton was accusing the government of doing nothing about housing, and the Minister of National Health and Welfare was accusing the Ontario government of doing nothing about housing.

Mr. Knowles: For once they were both right.

Mr. Noseworthy: They were both right as far as housing goes. It was just a case of the kettle calling the pot black.

[Mr. Noseworthy.]

Mr. Knowles: Which is which?

Mr. Noseworthy: It does not really make any difference which is which. The federal government's housing policy has been pretty much of a fizzle. If you do not think so, just go out and try to get a house into which you can take children. As a matter of fact, go out and try to find a house in which you can take anybody. Sufficient statistics have been placed on *Hansard* to show that next year the housing situation will be much worse than it is this year because fewer houses are being started and built this year. That is right in line with government policy. That is what the government wanted to do. What they deliberately started out to do was to decrease the number of houses being built because it was going to be inflationary. They had no regard whatever for the number of Canadians who need houses; that did not enter into the picture. All they were concerned about was their theory about inflation. According to that theory, if more houses were built it would increase or speed up the inflationary spiral.

A number of changes are to be noted in the government's policy regarding housing and it requires no expert to know what these are. In the first place the government which has refused to apply price controls to everything going into the building of a house attempts to apply price control to the finished product. Builders tell me that they are unable to come within \$200 or \$300 of the price which the government sets for the finished product because no curb has been placed on the rise in prices of everything that goes into the building of a house. It is a sort of halfway measure, a tinkering job the government has been doing. Unwilling to face up squarely to the problem of rising prices and to apply price control, they tinker with it and try to do the impossible. They get themselves into a muddle, and as a result hundreds of thousands of Canadians are without places to live.

Another feature of this problem is the set-up of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. I have said before in this house that this cannot properly be called a government-controlled corporation because it is actually controlled by the lending institutions. They are the bosses as far as Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is concerned. When they decide that they are not going to lend money they do not lend it, and the government is unwilling to put money into such projects. When they decide not to lend money there is no building, as the builders are unable to proceed with their contracts. That is what has been happening. The minister goes on making first one deal