

Supply—Mr. McCleave

—that there are greater resources on the continental shelf than there are on the moon. The continental shelf, they claim, holds minerals, oil and the like which could be used for the benefit of mankind while the composition of the moon is very much like the composition of the desert and without any value whatsoever. I hope this department will be encouraged. I hope the government will provide it with more funds so that we may take advantage of these offshore riches which need only to be found and properly exploited.

May I say a personal word to the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Stewart), a gentleman from the adjoining riding of Antigonish-Guysborough? We Nova Scotians are very pleased to find him in his present position, one for which I have a special regard since once I occupied it myself.

He will be hearing from us with regard to such matters as the need for new post offices at Chezzetcook and Musquodoboit. For the benefit of the *Hansard* reporter, Chezzetcook is spelled C-h-e-z-z-e-t-c-o-o-k and Musquodoboit is spelled M-u-s-q-u-o-d-o-b-o-i-t.

The hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough does not have the interesting portfolio which once attached to Public Works, that is, Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation. Here, I think, I enjoyed my most interesting moments during my time as parliamentary secretary. The C.M.H.C. people are a wonderful group to work with and I should like to throw out a couple of ideas which they can brains-trust around. Then, perhaps, later this session, these ideas could be explored in a debate on housing.

Before I spell out these ideas I should like to say there is one hope for the government. There is one graduate from Dalhousie law school among its members. I refer of course to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Nicholson) and it is he who reports to the house for C.M.H.C. So I would ask the hon. gentleman, who was I believe a classmate of my late father, whether he would take these two ideas to the corporation.

The first concerns public housing. We have three examples of that in Halifax—Mulgrave Park, Westwood Park and Uniacke Square. My thought on this is that our public housing projects are probably approached on too grandiose a scale. When I see housing torn down en masse, some of it good, most of it in poor condition, I am always conscious of the cost, which is probably between \$12,000 and

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\$15,000 in the case of these massive housing schemes. Then new buildings go up and people are moved in at a unit cost of around \$30,000 for each family sheltered. This of course requires subsidies. I am sure most of us do not really object to paying subsidies for public housing. But the figures become rather fantastic and there is a limit to what the public purse can stand in this respect.

It may be that the C.M.H.C. should brainstorm this to see whether it could not work on more projects which could be scattered about the community, rather than taking two blocks, tearing everything down and building up something new. I think it is important that this fresh look be taken. Our problems will increase rather than go away, because as a country we are growing older and there are many cities in the same position as Halifax in which large-scale rejuvenation of housing has to occur. One possible answer is that public moneys should only go into areas where city councils themselves have done everything possible by imposing minimum standards ordinances to prevent the decay or blight of housing.

The second point I wish to make, again with regard to housing, concerns the services. It has been the practice in the Halifax area and, I imagine, elsewhere, to take large lots of land and place on them large developments, either row housing or apartments for the exclusive use of service people. I wonder whether this could not be looked into again with a view to giving service people a better opportunity to integrate into the community. Instead of building 16 storey or 20 storey apartment buildings occupying one full block why not build smaller apartment buildings in various parts of the city so that the occupants are not, as they are now, segregated from other citizens of the cities in which they live?

There is another point I should like to make with regard to service housing and it relates to an important problem which at the present time is bothering the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Hellyer), that is, the building up of the strength of our armed forces. What I have in mind is an incentive scheme for servicemen which would provide a down payment on their houses and ensure that the longer they remained in a particular service the greater the payment would be. The longer they served, the more would be forgiven under this mortgage payment or arrangement. At the end of 20 or 25 years they would find themselves in possession of