

Mr. HAZEN: Have any steps been taken to bring this plan into operation in the maritime provinces? I remember some time ago I wrote to the officer in charge about some reconstruction in Saint John, and if my memory serves me correctly he told me that he was on his way to British Columbia but that when he returned he hoped to go to the maritimes to look into the situation there.

Mr. ILSLEY: The extension of the plan to Moncton, Saint John and Halifax is authorized, but no work has yet been done in any of those cities.

Mr. MacNICOL: What is the total number of apartments?

Mr. ILSLEY: The total number of apartments provided or being provided is 1,117 from 129 houses.

Mr. MacNICOL: That makes an average of from two to three thousand dollars apiece. The total amount is \$3,755,000.

Mr. ILSLEY: I have not given any figures of cost.

Mr. MacNICOL: The figures are here—housing conversion scheme, \$3,755,000.

Mr. ILSLEY: That is not what has been done. That is for the current year.

Mr. MARSHALL: How much was spent last year?

Mr. ILSLEY: The total expenditure to the end of March was \$842,201.48.

Mr. MARSHALL: How does this scheme differ from the national housing scheme, the wartime housing plan and the home improvement plan? Is it a different scheme entirely?

Mr. ILSLEY: Oh, yes; it differs in an infinite number of ways.

Mr. MARSHALL: Cannot one tie in with the other?

Mr. ILSLEY: It is nothing like the others. Under this the government leases large houses for a number of years, converts them into apartments and then rents the apartments at an amount estimated to bring the government out even at the end of five, six, seven or eight years. The government agrees to turn the property back to the owner in its converted condition at the end of that time.

Mr. MARSHALL: Is it not possible to consolidate some of these housing schemes?

Mr. ILSLEY: No; this is not like any of the others, and none of the others are alike.

Mr. MacNICOL: What is the number of applications for this year?

Mr. ILSLEY: Does the hon. member mean tenants, or property owners, or cities?

Mr. MacNICOL: How many applications from Toronto, say, to convert these large houses into apartments, and how many apartments is it anticipated will result from conversion in the city of Toronto this year?

Mr. ILSLEY: There are no applications. The government has to take the initiative—I would not say that that is 100 per cent the case. In Toronto the number of units occupied on May 1 was thirty-four; the number of units under construction sixteen, and the number of additional units estimated to be under construction before December 31, 1944, 166.

Mr. POULIOT: Housing is an urgent matter to a large number of Canadian citizens, and there is no reason why members of parliament should be deprived from taking advantage of housing legislation. It seems to me that it would be in order to amend the Senate and House of Commons Act to allow members of parliament to enjoy the same rights as any other Canadian citizen to live in houses of their own under the government housing scheme. Members of parliament should not be permitted to take advantage of the legislation to build apartments or houses to rent out. I hope the minister will consider the matter and give his thought to it so that housing of which we hear so much may become an accomplished fact in the near future. To my knowledge people are living in sheds and barns. That may do in the summer but people should have better accommodation than that in the winter. The minister is open-minded and, I am sure, will realize that fact, and I trust that he will consider favourably the suggestion I have made regarding members of parliament and members of the senate as well.

Mr. ILSLEY: The difficulty is the Independence of Parliament Act, is it?

Mr. POULIOT: Exactly.

Mr. ILSLEY: That can be given consideration, but I do not know that we would be justified in bringing in an amendment to the act.

Mr. POULIOT: Let me explain to the minister. Suppose that a member of parliament is a tenant and wants a home of his own. He would be satisfied with a modest little home just the same as the labouring man or anybody else in this country. All other Canadians can take advantage of the housing schemes, and I do not see why the Independence of Parliament Act should not be amended to permit a member of parliament to