

National Housing Act

confines of the great city of Toronto. But of course we in the city of Toronto are willing to go along with others.

I am in a rather awkward position. I have asked that the government go slow in industrial expansion. Yet on May 14 I had to sit quietly in my seat and listen to Canada's great Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) enunciate an expansion project which will consume building materials and take out of the market many thousands of bricks, much mortar and a certain amount of labour. Nevertheless it is a project that I must approve, if it is necessary. It is not a project of industrial expansion. It has to do with hospital accommodation. It is a young project—that is, it is eighteen years old. Not a dollar has been spent upon it in those eighteen years, but now \$3,000,000 worth of bricks and mortar is to be used for these purposes. It may seem that I am inconsistent when I ask the minister, as I have asked him in days gone by, to go ahead and build a certain project which has had the privilege of giving yearly over 100,000 days of hospital service to civilian and soldier patients who were incapacitated and in hospital through no fault of their own. We were pleased to hear the Prime Minister rise in his place and announce that his administration, in co-operation with the Ontario government and municipal governments, would provide \$1,000 per bed for active treatment patients who had come to the hospital for treatment.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member, but he is departing from the subject matter of the bill.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): I bow to your ruling, Mr. Speaker. When I notice in the bill that assistance is to be given in the construction of houses up to a maximum of eighty-five per cent of their estimated cost, and when I notice, sir, that corporations are invited to take over the projects when they are completed and paid for under the guaranteed contract, and so forth, I am trying in my humble way to point out that there are some organizations which might interfere with the carrying out of the provisions of this bill. The hospital project I mention is competitive in the use of materials which could be used for housing. Therefore, sir, if I have your indulgence I should like to make one or two comments. They will be included in two sentences.

Mr. GRANT: Louder.

Mr. HARRIS (Danforth): My hon. friend says "louder," or something else. I remind him, Mr. Speaker, that when the angel Gabriel descends from heaven and places one foot on dry land and the other on the ocean and declares that the world shall be no more, my

[Mr. Harris (Danforth).]

hon. friend will cry "Louder, louder!" Meanwhile it is his hard luck if he cannot hear what I am saying.

Now, sir, I shall continue with my two sentences. Within the next year or two this administration is going to give \$1,000 per bed toward the construction of a hospital extension which in the finished state will have cost close to \$3,000,000. My community, the corporation of the city of Toronto, will contribute to that hospital program \$5 for every \$1 that the government contributes. That is one sentence. My second sentence is this. I would ask the omnibus minister of everything that is worthwhile in the House of Commons, now the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Howe), the man charged with responsibility for this bill, to do as he did for us before. Let us have the building supplies for our hospital so that we in turn can give hospital service to our fellowmen.

Mr. T. L. CHURCH (Broadview): I have not taken part in the debate on housing so far this session. I wish to say that I have made it a rule of life to try to get on with people, whether individuals, corporations, railways or municipalities.

With regard to Bill 280, which is before the house for second reading, I believe that there should be read into it the cause and effect of the proposals it makes. Lack of housing is not a local matter; it is not a national matter; it is an international matter. It is a world matter which has been brought about by two long wars and a depression. No allowance was made for the subsequent increase in population. Transportation, electric light, power, water and sewers are municipal services, along with other agencies, which are necessary in any solution of the housing problem in the larger cities of this country.

I remember away back when we did not own the Toronto street railway. We had a privately-owned railway in only half of the old part of the city. What was done between 1915 and 1921 was this. We built civic car lines in the new part of the city. Let us suppose that the old city is on one side and the dividing line of Toronto is in the centre. We took over the Toronto street railway in 1921 when their franchise expired. I was much pleased with the 104 members who were in the city the other day, because as they travelled about our city and out to Oakville they saw the tremendous strides which have been made in housing, even during the period between the two wars and after the last war. I was surprised to see it myself because I had not seen recently as much of the surrounding district as I had before the last war started.