

*Discussion on Housing*

**Mr. Stewart:** May I ask the hon. member a question? Does the hon. gentleman know whether in the increase in federal expenditures which he has just called to our attention the transfer payments made by the federal government to the provinces are included?

**Mr. Orlikow:** Of course they are included, and Nova Scotia received a substantial amount. I do not want to spend all my time on this subject; I just want to try to bring some sense of reality to the members of the official opposition. The province of Ontario, which has had a Conservative government for 25 years, spent in 1958 just over \$1 billion. In the last year—this was before Mr. Roberts started to campaign and make a promise every day, promises which are going to cost hundreds of millions of dollars—the province of Ontario spent \$2.193 billion, an increase substantially greater than 100 per cent.

I wish to commend the province of Manitoba to the members of the official opposition. That province, which has had as its premier Mr. Roblin who, according to the week end *Globe and Mail*, is the shadow finance minister of the official opposition, had expenditures in 1957-58, the year in which Mr. Roblin took office, amounting to \$80 million. For the year 1967-68 expenditures in the province of Manitoba amount to \$354 million, an increase, according to my rough calculations, of 450 per cent.

I do not blame Mr. Roblin for the expenditures in some of those years. I was a member of the legislature of Manitoba for part of that period and I urged Mr. Roblin to spend even more money. However, I am suggesting to the members of the official opposition that if they are going to assume the new kind of image about which the press is talking so much, if they are going to offer a constructive alternative to the government, they have to be consistent. They cannot call on the federal government to be careful to cut down expenditures and cut back programs while at the same time Conservative provincial governments are expanding their services. If the members of the official opposition are talking, as they were today in the question period, about programs which should be cut back, I think they will have a responsibility this coming week when we are discussing the budget to tell us what programs they think should be cut back.

• (3:50 p.m.)

Should we stop the subsidy on the price of wheat to be paid to farmers, a subsidy which the government announced last week? I would like to hear from the Conservative members from western Canada. Do they think that subsidy should be stopped because the government is spending too much money? I would like to hear from the members from Cape Breton. Should we stop the subsidies paid to help the coal mines keep operating and to help keep the coal miners at work? I would like to hear from those members on that score.

I remember the hon. member for Bow River (Mr. Woolliams) and the hon. member for Macleod (Mr. Kindt) in past months asking the Minister of Transport about the subsidizing of coal being shipped by rail from the Alberta mines to Vancouver so that it can be sold to Japan. Do they want the government of Canada to stop subsidizing the shipment of that coal? If they do, let us hear about it.

Do the hon. members from Halifax and the hon. member for Esquimalt-Saanich want to cut a billion dollars or half a billion dollars from the defence estimates? I think we should be told this by them because if we do that people working for the navy at Halifax and Victoria would be thrown out of work. Let us hear from these members. Let us see how serious they are about this business of cutting expenditures.

**Mr. Forrestall:** What would you do about it?

**Mr. Orlikow:** I do not think the difficulties in housing are caused by too much government expenditure. I say that you people in the official opposition have a responsibility to spell out what you mean, if you really mean what you have been talking about for the last few days.

Now I want to deal with the kind of thing which the Minister of Labour was saying last week and the kind of thing which the Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp) was saying last night, that there is really no housing shortage in this country, no housing crisis except in Toronto. Mr. Speaker, the ministers know that is not true.

I have here three stories which appeared in Winnipeg newspapers during the last few months. One deals with the city of Winnipeg and appeared in the *Winnipeg Free Press* on March 14, 1967. It summarizes a study made of housing conditions in the central part of