

come. It has indicated at all times its desire for a resumption of the dominion-provincial conference to discuss this and other questions.

We have lost much valuable time in the last several years because of confusion between a short-range and a long-range policy. What we must have at the present time is a policy that will apply to the present emergent and critical conditions, measures designed to cope effectively with them, united with long-range plans which will have as their objective the clearing out of slum areas and the correcting of substandard housing conditions throughout Canada.

That cannot be done by any one jurisdiction, whether federal, provincial or municipal; it will require the best co-operative effort on the part of all. This government is sorely lacking in a sense of responsibility when it simply sits back and makes not the slightest effort to call a conference for that purpose. Earlier in the session, on March 18, the Minister of Reconstruction and Supply was asked whether any steps had been taken to call such a conference and the answer given by the minister was, "No".

Why has there not been such a conference? The municipalities have been asking for it; the provinces have been asking for it, but the dominion government sits with folded hands and does nothing. The program that the Progressive Conservative party offered yesterday will alone bring about a solution of this long-range problem as well as effectively grapple with the immediate critical shortages. That is embodied in the proposals which were put before the house yesterday afternoon.

Mr. WARREN: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. FLEMING: I do not want to hear any more about the \$450 house which the hon. member built apparently on the eve of an election.

Mr. WARREN: May I ask a question?

Some hon. MEMBERS: Order.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the hon. member has not the permission of the hon. member who has the floor to ask a question he must resume his seat.

Mr. FLEMING: The trouble with many of the proposals which have been put forward in the house, many of them in good faith, from other parties on this side of the house is that they have been much too general. They have not clearly outlined the purpose or the extent of the proposals. There has been no concrete plan offered, and therefore those who would want to know the implications of any proposal find that they cannot possibly accept

these proposals when they are so vague and general. They are too vast to be accepted in a debate of this kind.

The situation, then, is that this government will receive at the willing hands of this parliament whatever it requires in the way of powers to meet the situation, but the house will want something from this government that has not as yet been evident. The house will want evidence of a willing determination to grapple with this problem and to accept the full responsibilities that attach to it. The house will want the government to get on with the job, both of fulfilling its promises and measuring up to the commitments it made in the election campaign of 1945.

The house divided on the amendment (Mr. Nicholson), which was negatived on the following division:

YEAS

Messrs:

Argue	McCuaig
Bentley	MacInnis
Blackmore	McKay
Bowerman	Marshall
Bryce	Matthews (Kootenay East)
Burton	Moore
Campbell	Nicholson
Castleden	Shaw
Coldwell	Strum, Mrs.
Fair	Thatcher
Herridge	Townley-Smith
Hlynka	Wright
Irvine	Wylie
Jaenicke	Zaplitny—30.
Knight	
Low	

NAYS

Messrs:

Abbott	Dion (Lake St. John—Roberval)
Adamson	Dionne (Beauce)
Arsenault	Drope
Baker	Emmerson
Barrett	Farquhar
Beaudoin	Ferguson
Beaudry	Fleming
Belzile	Fontaine
Bertrand (Laurier)	Fournier (Hull)
Bertrand (Prescott)	Fournier (Maison-neuve-Rosemont)
Blair	Gauthier (Portneuf)
Blanchette	Gibson (Comox-Alberni)
Boivin	Gibson (Hamilton West)
Bonnier	Gingues
Bourget	Gladstone
Bradshaw	Golding
Brown	Gour (Russell)
Case	Gourd (Chapleau)
Charlton	Grant
Claxton	Graydon
Cloutier	Hackett
Côté (St. Johns-Iberville-Napierville)	Harkness
Côté (Verdun)	Harris (Danforth)
Daniel	Hartt
Dechene	
Denis	
Dickey	