

## HOUSING RECORD LAST YEAR



Mr. Robert Andras, then Minister of State for Urban Affairs, recently announced that rapid progress in Canada's housing program, which has been setting new records each year since 1968, continued in 1971, when a record number of new dwelling units were started.

"The quantitative measure of our housing progress, as stated in terms of dwelling starts, moved to a new level in 1971 with an estimated 233,600 starts being recorded," Mr. Andras said. "From the point of view of the consumer, the important Canadian housing statistic is the number of completions in a year or, in other words, the number of units that come onto the market for rent or sale. The estimate for 1971 is 201,200 units and this tops the former high of 195,829 units set in 1969. In this area, too, housing performance has reached new highs in three of the past four years."

Mr. Andras went on to say that enterprise by the housing industry, and upsurge in public housing activity and other forms of low-rental accommodation, the stimulation of special government measures, lower interest rates and "another good performance on the part of NHA and non-NHA institutional lenders" had been "the prime factors in carrying housing starts to a new and impressive level in 1971".

### PROVINCES

All provinces shared in the increased house-building activity. Starts were up in Newfoundland from 2,636 units in 1970 to 3,658 units during 1971; in Prince Edward Island from 784 units to 1,363 units; in Nova Scotia from 5,878 units to 7,308 units; in New Brunswick from 3,182 units to 4,930 units; in Quebec from 47,118 units to 51,782 units; in Ontario from 76,675 units to 89,980 units; in Manitoba from 8,945 units to 10,705 units; in Saskatchewan from 1,743 units to 3,560 units; in Alberta from 16,251 units to 25,602 units; and in British Columbia from 27,316 units to 34,765 units.

Dwelling starts also increased in all metropolitan areas except Montreal, which declined by 3.2 per cent, and the Ottawa-Hull region, which declined by 1.8 per cent, each of which areas had unprecedented activity in 1970.

Mr. Andras said that statistics to be issued in a few days would show that the largest year-to-year increase occurred in single-detached dwellings, which were up by 38.6 per cent over 1970 figures and semi-detached dwellings, which were up by 27 per cent from the level of 1970.

Apartment starts increased 15.5 per cent over those of 1970, although starts of row houses declined by 8.2 per cent from the 1970 level.