

*Supply—National Revenue*

of his remarks on the amendments to the National Housing Act said he had a few constructive suggestions to make and offered the hope that at a later date they would be given attention. But in the main he was most complimentary about the program envisaged by this new act. He went on to make it clear, however, that in the absence of active co-operation and enthusiastic support from provincial and municipal governments this new act, of which I think we can all be very proud, would be meaningless. And he suggested a series of these conferences. The object was to ensure that every municipality in Canada or that every province in Canada would know of the possibilities and of the facilities which are now available under the new legislation. That was the purpose of these meetings.

The Halifax meeting was attended not only by the president of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation but by all of the directors of the board with one exception. The vice president and other senior officials also were there, as were the members of parliament for that riding and some members of the legislature. Questions were answered and there was a really worth-while discussion. I think I can say the conference was a great success. Then on October 8, 9, and 10 I visited Newfoundland in company with the president, the vice president and other senior officials of C.M.H.C. There we found the premier together with several other ministers of the Newfoundland government in attendance with the deputy ministers and officials concerned. No fewer than 75 municipal representatives came to St. John's for this two-day symposium. I think it was a timely and helpful discussion. I will go further and say it was a very lively discussion—you cannot spend two days in Newfoundland without things being lively, especially when a question period is included.

We have arranged for meetings in Alberta on November 5 and 6. The meeting on November 5 will be held in Calgary and the meeting on November 6 in Lethbridge, while the federation of municipalities of the province of Alberta is holding its annual meeting. At the request of the federation we are holding the meeting at the same time. The provincial minister and I will be in attendance, along with the president of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation on that occasion. Not only will the subject of housing generally be under discussion but the possibilities of using the new act for sewerage construction projects and, more particularly the advantages of an

extensive program of urban renewal, will be discussed at length during that meeting.

I welcome this opportunity to make an announcement. A few weeks ago, I stated that the two provincial ministers concerned and I had agreed on the dates for the housing conference for eastern and southern Ontario as November 23 and 24, in Toronto. I have since found we were not able to get sufficient hotel accommodation for those dates. I also found that not only the mayor of Ottawa but the mayor of London, Ontario, and the mayor of Toronto felt it would be better to wait until after the municipal elections. This morning, with the assurance of the provincial ministers that they were in agreement, we changed the dates to December 16 and 17 by which time the elections will be over and some thought will have been given to who will be the leaders of housing programs by all the mayors and the reeves. So the meetings will be held in Toronto on December 16 and 17. The federation of mayors and reeves have been advised and are in agreement with the new dates.

Now I should like to make a special reference to the Fraserview veterans' housing project which, as the hon. member for Vancouver East has said, has been the subject of many questions. A series of questions has been asked in the house relating to the increases in rents which were introduced effective October 1 of this year. This housing project comprises 1,146 houses. They are units of two, three and four bedrooms. This is one of several projects completed after world war II under the 1948 and 1949 veterans' rental housing program. Hon. members may recall the statements which were made in answer to questions raised by the hon. member for Vancouver East and other hon. members. Approximately 12,000 houses were built across Canada during the two years which followed the passing of the legislation. All of them were rented to veterans of the second world war and of the Korean war.

I should like to make it clear—and this is apparent from the discussion which took place when the original legislation was passed—that this project was not intended to provide subsidized housing for veterans. It was intended to provide badly needed houses at fair rentals for veterans of the second world war and of the Korean campaign in large parts of Canada where the need arose. In 1954 it became apparent that the demand for rental accommodation for veterans was diminishing and that in most cities it was over. In that year the government of the day