

Adjournment Debate

Toronto region because of his actions. Furthermore, he is attacking the smooth operation of federal-provincial affairs in housing matters.

Let me look at those three areas and explain my charges to the House. First, social housing projects are a partnership. There are three main streams under this marvellous federal program: the co-operative stream handled by private citizens; the private non-profit stream handled by churches, associations and other private groups; and the one about which I am concerned, the public non-profit stream which is a partnership among federal, provincial and municipal governments.

The federal Government allocates a budget annually for public non-profit social housing. In Ontario this year that budget allows for the construction of 1,400 units. The provincial Government then takes those funds and divides them, presumably equally, across each province to each municipality. The municipalities then receive the funds and the unit allocations. They build the projects and they supervise and manage them into the future.

By and large this system has been successful. It is one of which we in Ottawa can be very proud. We have seen over 100,000 units built from coast to coast in the past four years under the General Social Housing Program. Regretfully Ontario under Claude Bennett has attacked the system financially in the past. By now ignoring the needs of the Metropolitan Toronto region he is attacking the people themselves.

Metro Toronto, together with the City of Toronto have over 5,000 applications on file from people who need to live in social housing projects. Canada's biggest urban area faces the prospect that it will not get one unit allocation to meet the needs of these 5,000 applications. This abuse by the Government of Ontario has hurt both the people and the facilities at the municipal level designed to serve them.

● (1805)

What kind of people am I talking about? They are single parents, disabled, pensioners, and low income families. Let me take an example from my own region. In Peel we have excellent facilities managed and built by the Peel Non-Profit Housing Corporation. One thousand seven hundred units have been built in this area between 1979 and 1983. Seven hundred and seventy-three of those units are within my own riding of Mississauga North. Two hundred and thirty units are specifically rent geared to income. Of the other 543, families generally must have incomes annually below \$29,000 to be eligible to live there. We know today that in a city like Mississauga \$29,000 annually is not a rich man's income. There are another 400 units currently under construction. One hundred will be specifically geared to income and 300 will be at market rents for moderate income people. These are the people the Government of Ontario is attacking by its neglect.

The other day when I asked my question, the Minister of Public Works (Mr. LeBlanc) who replied said:

—we recognize in the area of social housing that we must make a special effort to direct housing units to those most in need and who have been waiting the longest.

These are the people who are being overlooked by this gesture from Ontario. It is unconscionable.

Further, this action attacks the basic partnership between the federal and provincial governments which I described a moment ago. This attack had already taken place financially. In Peel's budget for 1984 \$16 million is being allocated to this area. The Ontario Government is paying only 4 per cent of that figure. The federal government is paying 51 per cent. The tenants are paying 44 per cent. Now we have a new strain put on this partnership, the strain of ignoring the most populated city with the largest number of applications and with the greatest proven need.

I ask the Minister or his Parliamentary Secretary to object most strenuously and to point out the basic negligence and abuse that this move by Ontario represents.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Jean-Claude Malépart (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Mr. Speaker, I feel first of all that the Hon. Member should be praised for his dedication to the cause of social housing especially for medium and low income families.

I wish to reply to the question which the Hon. Member raised on March 15 concerning the allocation of funds for the construction of public non-profit housing units within Metro Toronto municipalities.

The Hon. Member is certainly aware that under federal-provincial agreements, the federal government allocates funds for social housing to the provinces which in turn are responsible for sharing these funds between their respective municipalities. To meet the criteria of the program, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation allocates these funds to the provinces on the basis of their respective requirements for proper and affordable housing.

On this basis, the share of the funds earmarked for Metro Toronto municipalities should have been considerable. Unfortunately, the Ontario government seems to apply its own rules for setting up priorities and has decided to ignore the needs of that metropolitan area.

Mr. Speaker, the federal minister responsible for housing has asked CMHC officials to examine all 1984 proposals to determine priorities. He has also invited provincial representatives to carry out a similar study of the housing quotas allocated to them. As the minister himself indicated in reply to this question, the province of Ontario has ignored the needs of medium and low income families living in the Toronto area in not providing this urban centre with unit allocations.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to believe that the province of Ontario is using this pressure tactics to force the federal Government to increase its housing unit allocations to meet the needs of that area. The province knows fully well that it takes quite some time to put together public non-profit social housing development packages within the various municipalities,