

As a result of that question I was directed either to put it on the order paper or discuss it on the adjournment debate. I also asked a supplementary question which reads as follows:

Will the minister consider appointing the former mayor of Toronto, now the hon. member for York West (Mr. Givens), to be in charge of this project? Otherwise the housing policy may well be a charade.

I asked these questions because back in 1953 a 1,662 acre parcel of land situated at the corner of Sheppard and Markham Road in the township of Scarborough was jointly acquired by the federal government and the provincial government of Ontario and set aside for public low cost housing. Then in 1954 the Ontario government announced it would build 5,000 homes on this site. Fifteen years later not a single house stands on this land. On January 12, 1967 Mr. Randall, on behalf of the Ontario government, announced that work would begin immediately. No action was taken in that year. On August 28, 1968 Mr. Randall stated, as reported in the *Globe and Mail*:

The time is now ripe to develop the (Malvern) area... Sewers, water and roads are within close proximity. Our partner, Central Mortgage and Housing Corp., is only now willing to go ahead with the scheme as is the municipality of Scarborough and we will proceed with all possible speed.

This was on August 28. The latest rumour we have is that the building will commence in January of 1969. This is the reason I asked the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer), who is in charge of housing, for a report.

Thirty thousand new public and private homes could be built on this land. The Home Ownership Made Easy plan of the Ontario government could be implemented in respect of this project. With the serious housing crisis we have in Toronto, particularly in respect of public housing, this project would help to ease the situation.

Earlier I suggested to the minister that the former mayor of Toronto, now the member for York West (Mr. Givens), could be put in charge of the federal housing responsibilities. Thus far the former mayor has had difficulty in applying his administrative talents in Ottawa. It was the mayor who said before the finance committee last week that this committee was a charade. I have no desire to have the former mayor of Toronto say that the housing policy of the federal government is a charade.

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

I had hoped the minister in charge of housing would be present to give a full reply, but I am sure the hon. member who will reply will deal with this matter adequately. It is for that reason I took only five minutes, so as to give him more time to deal with this serious question.

Mr. Stanley Haidasz (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I hope the information given to me by the office of the Minister of Transport (Mr. Hellyer) will shed some light on this Malvern housing project to which the hon. member for Broadview (Mr. Gilbert) has just referred. I am sure the hon. member knows that the Malvern lands were purchased by both governments, and that the feasibility study was sponsored jointly by the federal and provincial governments in 1967. This led to the appointment of consultants in March of 1968, with the request that they prepare a development plan. Provided a plan of subdivision can be registered by mid-1969, it is expected that the installation of services will be under way by the end of that year. The appointed consultants have the responsibility for the design of services and also the supervision of their installation. Actual house construction should follow immediately after the installation of services. I should like to assure hon. members that work on the Malvern lands is proceeding steadily and that I believe this project will be a great success.

I should also like to bring to the attention of hon. members the fact that the provision for more housing for the Canadian people is steadily increasing. Earlier this week the president of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation told a housebuilding conference in Toronto that housing starts in Canada will reach a record total of 190,000 this year, compared with 164,123 last year. This is good news following the previous forecast of 175,000 housing starts for 1968.

Urban housing starts for the first 11 months of this year totalled 147,076, up 19.5 per cent from the corresponding period last year. As a member of parliament representing a Toronto constituency, I am very happy to note that in metropolitan Toronto 34,207 housing starts have been achieved in the first 11 months of this year. This figure already exceeds the total for the whole record year of 1965.

Furthermore, I believe that greater achievements in the housing field will be made after the Minister of Transport puts into motion some of the excellent recommendations made to the federal task force on housing.