

Supply—National Revenue

once held on national highway policy. I was surprised and disappointed when the minister indicated that there was no intention of reconvening the conference nor of proceeding with the national highway policy. It should be of tremendous interest to the Minister of Trade and Commerce that the question of national highway policy be considered in the context of getting Canadian products to the coastal ports, particularly in this instance to the Pacific coast ports, so as to move them into the markets that are and will be available for Canadian industry.

National highway policy is an integral part of trade policy. It is the part which will assist us to move our products at competitive costs and get them into world markets at more competitive prices than we can at present. This is a question of particular importance to the Pacific coast, where the construction of highways and the integration of a highway system are complicated by extremely rugged terrain, where the combined resources of the best government planning are essential if the network is to achieve its objective.

We on the Pacific coast know that the government of B.C. has gone into the shipping business in a big way through the construction of ferries. It is now moving from the north coast of Vancouver island into Alaska by providing car ferries, thus improving communications between Alaska and the west coast of B.C. But this will not solve the whole problem, and a proper land link between Vancouver island and the mainland appears more necessary as time goes on and pressure of traffic increases.

In the balance of time that may be available to me later in this debate I shall relate this matter to the policies of trade and commerce but now, Mr. Chairman, I note it is one o'clock.

The Chairman: Order. It is my understanding that this item will stand, and that the committee will go on to other estimates at 2.30.

Item stands.

At one o'clock the committee took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 2.30 p.m.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL REVENUE

Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation—

L20. Advances to Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation for the purposes of subsection (1) of

section 37 of the National Housing Act, 1954, in respect of the acquisition, development, construction and improvement of land and buildings, \$216,000.

The Chairman: This item will be found on page 517 of the blue book.

Mr. Nielsen: Before the committee passes this item I think we might draw to the attention of the minister a few of the inadequacies in national housing, and point out also one or two contrasts between what used to be the program of the national Liberal party as promised during two election campaigns and what has actually happened over the last two years.

Of interest to the committee I am sure is a recent report by the Ontario association of housing authorities which showed that hundreds of thousands of Canadians live in inadequate and substandard housing. An article published in the *Montreal Gazette* on August 28, 1964 under the heading "Public Housing Policy in Canada Criticized" may be of some assistance since it contains a condensation of the criticisms embodied in the Murray report. I quote from the *Gazette* of that date:

A report sharply critical of Canada's attitude towards subsidized public housing was presented to the federal government Thursday.

Based on a two year study by the Ontario association of housing authorities—

The length of time taken would certainly indicate that a good deal of care and consideration went into this assessment of national housing ills.

—the hundred thousand word report describes the public housing program as inadequate and late, "bearing absolutely no relationship to any realistic appraisal of the need in Canada."

It blames government inaction and public apathy for the fact that 750,000 families are forced either to live in dilapidated and overcrowded houses or pay an excessive portion of their income to escape bad housing.

It would be interesting to hear the minister's views on this particular criticism contained in the Murray report:

In order to achieve good housing for all Canadians by a 1980 target, 4,000,000 new or rehabilitated dwellings were needed including about 1,000,000 subsidized for low income and ill housed families.

The report tells us:

The study team, headed by Prof. James A. Murray of the University of Toronto, included amongst its recommendations the appointment of a federal minister of urban affairs and housing, a similar minister at the provincial level, and a national housing and urban advisory committee.

I believe the committee would also be interested to hear the minister's views on behalf of the government with regard to this particular recommendation. Perhaps the minister