

BOOST FOR LOW-COST HOUSING

The minister responsible for housing, Mr. Robert Andras, has announced that the Federal Government recently authorized Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation to initiate an additional 15,000 housing starts for 1970, a project that will require another \$100 million of public funds before the end of the year.

The new funds will be directed under Sections 16 and 40 of the National Housing Act, to provide owned and rented dwellings on which actual starts can be made before December 31, for persons of modest income.

"While 1969 and 1970 have seen a tremendous increase in Federal Government emphasis on providing decent shelter for lower-income families and persons, there is a continuing large backlog of need to fill. Also, the Government is aware of the low level of total new housing starts during the first six months of this year. It is true there was some improvement in June but the fact remains that the present overall rate of housing construction is not satisfactory and is of concern to the Government," Mr. Andras stated.

The performance of lending institutions, which was below expectation for the first half of the year, and strikes and labour stoppages, were two reasons given by the minister for the low number of new housing starts.

"It may be," he continued, "that both our

lending institutions and the house-building industry have tended to concentrate their activities on housing in the higher price ranges, where there may be some slackening in demand, and have not fully availed themselves of the opportunities afforded by the modest income market. This is one of the reasons that, earlier this year, I suggested introduction of the \$200-million innovative housing program - to stimulate the search for better ways and means of producing accommodation for families with smaller incomes."

Mr. Andras made it clear that, in the new program of 15,000 additional dwelling units for lower-income groups about to be initiated with public funds, every effort would be made to avoid any interference or overlap with activities of the private mortgage lenders, in either the National Housing Act or the conventional fields.

The minister said that, concurrently with his announcement, he had informed NHA lenders of the Government's additional direct investment and had asked them to step-up their residential mortgage lending as well. He estimated that a net addition of 15,000 starts in 1970 would create about 17,000 additional jobs in construction work and that the current level of construction activity could accommodate such an increase without strain. There would also be created a substantial number of new jobs in activities related to housing.

UNIQUE GERMAN PLANE AT MUSEUM

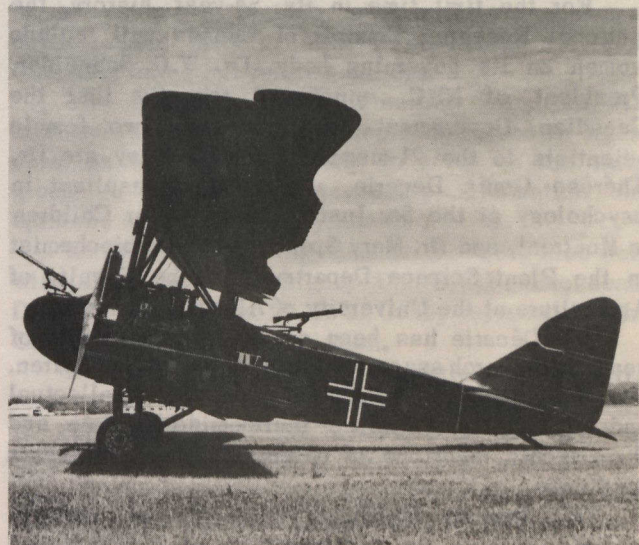
A German bombing aircraft of the First World War, the only example of an AEG (G-IV) in existence, has been restored to original condition and is on display at the National Aeronautical Collection in the Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa.

The twin-engined plane, which had a top speed of 90 miles an hour, was used primarily on short-range tactical bombing missions on the Western Front. It carried a crew of three or four, depending on the mission, and a bomb load of 772 pounds.

According to aviation experts, it was not a successful performer compared to similar planes of its time. Only about 400 AEG (G-IV) aircraft were produced, 50 of which were still in use near the end of the First World War.

WAR TROPHY

The machine, brought to Canada as a war trophy in 1919, became part of the inventory of the Canadian War Museum and remained in storage until 1966, when restoration started. Work was completed by staff of the National Aeronautical Collection, who brought it back to its original condition, including the unusual printed lozenge-pattern camouflage fabric that was used in several forms on German



The AEG (G-IV) at the National Science Museum.

aircraft of this period.

The plane, which was first used late in 1916, weighed 7,986 pounds fully loaded and was powered by two 260-horsepower Mercedes engines. It had a wing span of 60 feet, a length of 31 feet 10 inches and an endurance of four-and-a-half-hours.