quarter of 1968 and our average for the four quarters of 1969 are very close to $32 billion.

Senator SPARKMAN. What I am trying to get is a measurement as to these new starts. Would that be approximately the same?

Mr. KLEIN. About one and a half.

Senator SPARKMAN. Oh, yes, one and a half million.

Mr. KLEIN. Yes.

Senator SPARKMAN. It would be the same then in 1968—1968 had a million and a half didn't it?

Mr. KLEIN. Yes.

Senator SPARKMAN. Now, Mr. Suits, I don't believe I saw in your paper any estimate. Do you make an estimate?

Mr. SUITS. No, I only gave the money figure but this implies about the same rate of starts with somewhat higher prices.

Senator SPARKMAN. The same as 1968?

Mr. SUITS. Yes.

Senator SPARKMAN. So among the four of you, you say it would not be lower than the 1968, it might go as much as a hundred thousand above.

Mr. SUITS. Right, sir.

Senator SPARKMAN. I notice that recently, contrary to the thinking of most people, the number of starts has gone up, and I noticed in yesterday's Washington papers a rather interesting article about the sales of housing around here that sales are booming. Of course that may be explained by something the chairman has said, I believe it was the chairman, trying to buy before the rates go higher, before the costs go higher.

I just wonder if that might be taken as an indication of a greater interest in housing during 1969 than perhaps you have contemplated.

Mr. SUITS. Well, certainly if the January figure, which—I don't recall the starts figure but I remember it is very, very high——

Senator SPARKMAN. I don't remember them either.

Mr. SUITS. But it was very, very high.

Senator SPARKMAN. Yes.

Mr. SUITS. And certainly if this development continues our estimates on housing is far too low, if that unquestionably is so. The only question is whether it is a temporary phenomenon, as I am inclined to believe at the present time, or whether this is an indication of some further developments, later on.

Mr. PERRY. May I say one thing on that.

Senator SPARKMAN. Yes.

Mr. PERRY. I think we all probably feel the underlying demand for housing as shown by family formation and vacancy rates is very strong and probably consistent with the numbers we see this winter in housing starts. I suspect all of us who feel we are going to get a lower number do so entirely because of the restricted supply of mortgage funds that we foresee.

Senator SPARKMAN. Of course, the rather moderate weather we have had this winter has helped certainly in this area, has helped the housing program, at least it hasn't slowed it down as has been the case in the past.

We have housing goals for this year. Have you given any thought as to those goals, as to your idea as to whether or not we had the re-