

*The Address—Mr. Macaluso*

needed from senior levels of government, especially in the areas of housing, transportation, parks, recreation and open spaces. There is no doubt that the problems of the city and of the people within it cannot be met without a much larger commitment of funds by the senior levels of government. With the major bite from municipal revenues taken for education costs and with the demand for services in new and old areas of the city, local governments usually have little, if anything, left over to build and create decent communities for their citizens. One way of doing this, and I support this proposition, is the deducting from income tax of residential real property taxes which our citizens pay to their municipalities.

Another problem is that the outward expansion of the urban areas has created its own particular form of political headache. As the urban metropolitan area grows it absorbs many smaller towns and municipalities, all governed by their own leaders who are more often than not parochial in attitude. Thus the means of governing this complete fabric is divided into many jurisdictions which, more often than not, compete rather than co-operate on mutual problems.

This competition retards the over-all development and implementation of any over-all plan or design for the metropolitan area because of the jealousies and the conflicting standards of land use, zoning, etc. Thus, Mr. Speaker, the progress, growth and development of our cities often depend on the task of getting from five to 20 different municipalities, with different political jurisdictions, harnessed and pulling together. We must devise ways and means of improving our political structure and putting metropolitan areas under one political jurisdiction.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, to meet the multitude of urban problems requires the full scale attack of all levels of government. Our approach to urban problems can be a shining example of creative federalism in action, with each area of government working and acting in a way which best complements the activity of the other, a nation-wide approach in which all three levels of government would jointly share in the establishment of policy and planning programs. Thus there must be an integrated, co-operative attack involving all levels and resources of government.

What is the basic problem of urbanization in Canada in this our centennial year? As I see it, it is nothing less than the building of a new Canada. It involves a complete recasting of the urban environment in which most

Canadians will live. By the year 2000 something like five million people will live in a metropolitan area connecting Oshawa, Toronto, Kitchener, Hamilton, and the Niagara peninsula to Fort Erie. By the year 2000 Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Montreal, St. John's and Halifax will account for most of our population and they will all, I emphasize, be on the metropolitan scale.

Thus it will be readily seen that if we want decent living conditions we must plan the form which these areas are to take in terms of their physical growth. Cities are the outward expression of the values and the attitudes of a civilization. Strong metropolitan planning at all levels of government is essential for the new Canada. Mr. Speaker, what better challenge is there to Canadians in our centennial year than the challenge to plan and build new towns in and around our largest cities? New towns planned in advance of need will provide us with the opportunity to solve the urban problems as stated earlier of supplying adequate housing for everyone. With new towns of adequate size we could plan ahead for school sites and parkland and preserve each new town against decay by surrounding it with useful and functional green belts.

• (2:50 p.m.)

Some of the remarks which I have made previously in this house I should like to put forward again now. These are a few suggested solutions: First of all, I believe the first priority should be the creation on a major cabinet level of a department to handle housing and urban affairs. I believe this should be the spearhead in attacking the problems of cities. It would combine all aspects of urban involvement undertaken by the federal government, for example, by Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, by urban transportation authorities, by municipal governments and so on.

This department would co-ordinate the various urban programs throughout the country and establish comprehensive objectives and priorities. It would sponsor research and experimental and demonstration projects in order to find solutions to urban problems. It would take the lead in arranging and formulating an effective working relationship at all levels of government in dealing with urban matters. Further, it would develop and recommend policies for fostering the orderly growth and development of our urban areas.