

Social Development Ministry

increasingly aware of the fact that the public purpose is interlinked and therefore cannot be compartmentalized or fractionated. That is, some social problems cannot be solved without aggravating others, and some must be approached on different fronts simultaneously if success is to be achieved.

Our government is most aware of these realities. In order to ensure that its decisions are comprehensive and that the activities of the federal government are integrated interdepartmentally, are effective and efficient, the government must be able to draw upon the policy analysis services of a support staff whose focus is on the interlinkages of social policy between programs, a support staff whose objectivity is not jeopardized by ongoing program delivery responsibilities, and an agency capable of applying the newest techniques of policy and program analysis. These, among others, will be the responsibilities of the ministry of state for social development.

Finally, I would like to speak for a few minutes of the financial and administrative scope of the federal government's social policy activities. Recent statistics show that Canadian governments—municipal, provincial and federal—annually spend about 23 per cent of the GNP on social policy activities related to social security, health, and education. This amounts to 51 per cent of all government expenditures. In these areas of social policy, the federal government provides the funding for 42 per cent of all activities, yet directly administers only 26 per cent of those social programs. Practically all of these federally administered programs are in the form of direct income transfers to individuals.

The provinces and municipalities, on the other hand, directly administer 74 per cent of government expenditures on health, social security and education, but fund out of their own revenues only 58 per cent. If education is excluded, the federal government funds over 52 per cent of all social expenditures in health and social security, but administers only 34 per cent. The federal role in social policy is thus characterized as largely that of providing funding to provinces and providing income transfers directly to individuals.

This year \$26 billion, or 45 per cent of the federal government's total expenditures, has been allocated to the social development and legal affairs envelope. Additionally, in fiscal 1980-81 the federal government will transfer to the provinces an additional \$4.4 billion for health and post-secondary education in the form of tax points. Given the financial magnitude of the federal role, the fact that its social policy initiatives are under the direction of seven federal departments and 14 other agencies, and seeing that in many areas the federal role is indirect, it is incumbent that the federal government have the support of a central agency mandated to advise the government on ways of achieving federal social priorities in a coherent, interdepartmentally integrated, efficient and effective manner.

The concern of the minister of social development would be in the areas I have just mentioned. In reference to the minister who will be involved in this new creative social development policy, I would refer hon. members to page three, item (c) of the motion, which reads:

he shall lead and co-ordinate the efforts of the Government of Canada to establish and to clarify co-operative relationships with the provinces and with public and private organizations, to foster conditions that allow and assist the development of the individual, the family and the community;

That, in essence, sums up what has been said by those who support this motion. I support it as well.

Mr. Doug Lewis (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, first I would like to say that I have a great deal of respect for the hon. member for Saint-Maurice (Mr. Chrétien). I know that he has a genuine concern for Canada, Canadians, and social development.

I would also like to say that it is an honour for me to participate in this debate and to follow my colleague, the hon. member for Rosedale (Mr. Crombie) because, during his distinguished career as mayor of the city of Toronto, he gave a real meaning and purpose to the social development of that great city. He insisted that Toronto stop and take a look at itself, and he sharpened that city's social conscience. I do not really think that any member of this House has the experience which the hon. member for Rosedale has, both at the street level and at the administrative level. However, I did not think that the year 1960 was quite as long as he made it this afternoon, but I do respect his efforts in this area.

I want to commend the government for bringing forward this motion at a time when it faces the challenges of the 1980s. The development of the individual, the family and the community are fundamental to the future of Canada. Without a demonstrated concern for social development, the government faces the charge that it is not concerned about these vital issues. The government must demonstrate its concern by creating an agency which is charged with the responsibility of co-ordinating government policy, of eliminating duplication, and of improving the effectiveness of its social policies. The ministry of state for social development can be such an agency.

I say "can be" because those of us who are relatively new to politics, after a lifetime in the private sector, view the creation of another government agency or another ministry with a certain amount of ingrained suspicion.

Mr. Murphy: You don't look that old.

Mr. Lewis: This leads me to suggest some guidelines to the government. The word "development" implies a process which looks to the future. I implore this government to look to the future in this ministry because we are faced with some unique challenges and unique opportunities in Canada over the next 20 years. We must anticipate the challenges and the opportunities. There is the challenge of an aging society. This challenge must be identified now in order that we can cope with the problems this will present as a greater proportion of our population comes to be made up of senior citizens. That is the challenge.

● (2050)

At the same time there are opportunities open to Canadians because of our wealth of untapped natural resources which we have to develop. The Minister of State for Social Development