

Suggested Lack of Urban Policy

introduced in the province of Ontario. I have no reason to give any credit to the government of the province of Ontario but I think we all should recognize that the basic innovation which will bring this federal government into urban policies is being developed within that province.

● (5:40 p.m.)

I suggest, since my time is short, that members consult the recently published "Design for Development" put out by the government of Ontario and dealing with the Toronto-centred region. This is the first of a series of regional development plans that will cover the entire province. This is a fundamental change in the conditions for a new federal approach to urban problems. It is fundamental because that province is committed to establishing regional governments without which we shall founder in trying to create a proper urban environment for the future—fundamental, not only in creating urban governments, but in their first report on the Toronto-centred region, by laying out a basic concept of development. This development concept takes as its context an urbanizing region within which lie urban centres such as the metro core, the Oshawa area, the Hamilton area, and others—urban centres in a linear pattern; looks also at another zone which is the commuter zone, and looks beyond that to another zone for urban and regional development known as the peripheral area. This is a concept of development to take us to the year 2000, and it shows that this provincial government is at last taking its responsibility to lay out the framework into which the municipalities and the federal government can usefully fit. It will require us to participate in comprehensive development plans based on that fundamental concept.

I think we cannot escape the conclusion that unless the provinces take these kinds of initiatives we shall not succeed. It is not appropriate now for the municipalities to run to Ottawa with some kind of romantic notion that solutions lie here because finances lie here. It is not appropriate to disperse federal funds to local units of administration that cannot resolve the issue. Only the provinces can create effective regional units within which new federal policies and programs can apply.

This is the concept in the province of Ontario. It finds that the major trends now taking place in the metropolitan region are leading to perverse results with bad housing,

congestion, alienation and social problems of all kinds. The province undertakes to reverse or modify these trends with the plan which is laid out in this recent booklet "Design for Development".

With that I shall conclude my remarks, Mr. Speaker. My point in making any comment at all was to stress that it is an intergovernmental policy which we are seeking; not just a federal policy. The key element in getting an intergovernmental policy is the province, and the provinces are just beginning to play that role. By reorganizing and restructuring the municipalities they also will have to be a reorganization of the finances between the provinces and municipalities. Into that pattern can be fitted all those federal roles of an intergovernmental or consultative kind such as where the next airport will go in that region. Decisions of this type will be integrated into the fundamental plan which the province lays out.

This plan covers half the people of Ontario, and it would be important if only for that reason. It covers one out of five Canadians, and it would be important if only for that reason. However, its importance goes far beyond that because it lays the basis for the intergovernmental machinery which has to follow to develop the plans into which this federal government can fit in entirely new ways.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, before the hon. member concludes his excellent speech, would he permit a question?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. The Parliamentary Secretary resumed his seat at the moment his time expired. Is there agreement to allow the Parliamentary Secretary more time?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Broadbent: I wonder if the hon. member would agree that there is nothing incompatible in what he had to say in, I repeat, his excellent speech, with what I was suggesting in my speech.

Mr. O'Connell: Mr. Speaker, I would have to review the remarks of the hon. member; but I think there is nothing incompatible with the point he was stressing, that we need a new urban policy at the federal government level. It cannot be created and made to function, as I was seeking to point out, until there is a new urban policy in the provinces and a