

Urban Affairs

ment, and to all Canadians, the facts contained in paragraph 2 of the minister's statement, namely, that within 30 years one half of Canadians will reside in the three metro areas of Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, and that the most severe growth pressures will occur in this current decade.

Dr. Lithwick is to be commended for pointing to the present great fragmentation of federal efforts in the cities, with perverse results on the promotion of the co-ordination of the vast federal involvement in urban Canada. We are told that the tools for dealing with our present and future urban policies are at hand. But where is the will and the skill to use them? It is in this that we in this party are primarily interested.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Ryan: I deplore the government's answer, which is the ministry of state and more highly paid, flexible instruments. We have had enough reports by intellectuals and experts. What we need now is leadership and action. I find the argument of the minister for proliferation of ministries to be a specious one. Let him emulate the late C. D. Howe rather than his present leader, for too many good works are lost in contemplation.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I apologize to the hon. member for interrupting him. Perhaps he could give some thought to bringing his statement to an end. According to the Standing Orders, as no doubt he knows, it should be a brief statement or a brief comment. Perhaps he has exceeded the bounds of the Standing Order. I realize how important the matter is and how interesting is the statement being made by the hon. member for Spadina. I am sure that he will wish to co-operate with the Chair in this regard.

Mr. Ryan: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We have waited a long time for the report. It is lengthy and deals with an urgent situation. I hope you will forgive me for my lengthy statement; I will try to wind up in a few words.

I suggest that, although it will be good to test specific policies before major new financial or administration commitments are made, we shall expect both good and swift work to be done under the great pressure of our rapid urbanization.

I left out two or three sentences, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure that will be our loss.

Mr. David Orlikow (Winnipeg North): Mr. Speaker, a quick look at Dr. Lithwick's report, that is all that we have been able to give it, leaves a very favourable impression. It looks like a comprehensive beginning to the solution of a very important problem. I join with the hon. member for Spadina (Mr. Ryan) in regretting the length of time it has taken for us to get this report. The government has had the report for a long time. Questions and notices of motions for production of papers connected with the report have been on the Order Paper probably for one year or more. Now that we have the report, I hope that supporting documents containing information about the studies which were made, about the people

[Mr. Ryan.]

who worked on it, about what they did, about their qualifications and their pay will be forthcoming. That information has not been given so far.

We agree that a national urban policy is necessary. We have called for the establishment of a ministry of urban affairs for a number of years. Apparently the government, if not Dr. Lithwick, is proposing to establish a ministry that will be devoted to research and not to action. I regret that. Without detracting from the research done by Dr. Lithwick and his colleagues, may I say to the minister and to the government that over the years a tremendous amount of research has been conducted in the fields of housing, pollution and urban growth, but that very little has been done to meet problems outlined by earlier studies.

In his statement the minister talked about the major problems of high housing costs, slums, pollution, and so on, and pointed out that they are the result of untempered economic growth and urban expansion. They have also resulted from the failures of federal, provincial and municipal governments to plan comprehensively. I suggest to the minister in all seriousness that they are also to be attributed largely to the lack of money necessary to meet the problems. It is useless to tell the municipalities of Canada that they must move more quickly to clean up pollution caused by inadequate sewage disposal systems, because they will say, "We have no money for that." The statement contains no answer for them.

The minister said that within 30 years half the people of Canada will be living in the metropolitan areas of Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. It seems, therefore, that the government has rejected the suggestions made in the study conducted by the former minister, namely, that satellite cities should be built. The minister shakes his head; nevertheless, the statement does not suggest that that may be done. The statement talks about the growth pressures which will occur in the next decade and says that we must deal with these right now. I suggest that it is time for the minister and for the government to consider something that the *Toronto Star*, for example, has been advocating for several years, the public ownership of land in and around the large urban areas where the next spate of urban development and growth will take place. Let us squeeze out the speculators instead of encouraging them to get into the act.

The minister said that policy making at all levels of government has failed to prompt governments to act in concert on these problems. How can the municipal and provincial governments act in concert with the federal government, or with each other, when Ottawa decides on the amount of money to be used for housing and other matters to do with urban growth on an ad hoc basis. Its decision is influenced by the amount of unemployment, as well as by other questions. Instead of carrying on long range planning, the government decides how much money will be made available on very short notice. Under those circumstances no municipal or provincial government can act in concert with the federal government. The minister said that people are now working to insti-