

them for?" to which the farmer answered, "I am getting \$1.98 each and they are going like hotcakes." The merchant then remarked that that was not sound business, to which the farmer replied: "I know, but it is still better than farming". That is the type of story they tell out west.

I should take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board, the Honourable Otto Lang, for finally achieving this long-time dream of Prairie farmers. It is one of the most welcome items in the government's program as far as western Canada is concerned.

The elimination of economic isolation will also be greatly assisted by the enactment of the Family Income Security Plan. This is a very advanced form of social legislation which will greatly increase the amount of the allowance going to those families who are in the most need. Additional federal money in the amount of \$150 million will be put into the total program in order to eliminate, as far as possible, that part of the economic isolation which is referred to in the Speech from the Throne.

The Speech also referred to the isolation of social injustice, and in my view it is a compassionate kind of reference. It specifically mentioned housing, and the fact that some Canadians do not have adequate housing due to their low income. I am delighted to hear of additional programs to provide housing for low income families. Such programs have been carried on quite effectively in the last few years. I am proud to note that in Canada in 1971 we had a record number of housing starts, a good number of which represented an innovative and, I believe, an imaginative program of housing for low income families.

Honourable senators, perhaps I may digress slightly at this point and speak for a moment about the Minister of State for Urban Affairs. I do not wish to belabor this point, but I feel that this whole question of urban affairs, part of which embraces this housing problem, is a subject which should be considered in depth by this chamber. I believe that there is an important role for this chamber to play in participating, perhaps by way of a standing committee on the affairs of the urban communities of Canada, and by taking an active part in an advisory, consultative, or a fact-finding way, in order to assist the Minister of State for Urban Affairs in his work in this important portfolio.

I hope I have an opportunity at some time in the future to discuss this in more detail. We do have a serious problem in urban affairs in that the municipalities are creatures of the provinces, and the provincial governments are very zealous in their control over the municipal governments in their respective provinces. They hesitate to allow too much federal participation in urban affairs. As a matter of fact, at least two of them are very much against any consultation at all.

I believe the Senate has an important contribution to make in this regard, and in due course I hope I will be able to make a proposal for a standing committee on urban affairs for consideration by this chamber.

In closing this aspect of my remarks I quote from N. H. Lithwick's book *Urban Canada*, in which he states:

[Hon. Mr. Buckwold.]

A meaningful urban policy framework can be developed only in the light of a national consensus about its problem, the objection, and the priority. To date there is no evidence that such a national urban policy is being contemplated, and the degenerative processes now under way in our major metropolitan areas are encountering a serious policy vacuum.

I believe this chamber can make a contribution in that regard. Mr. Lithwick indicates that by the year 2000, metropolitan Toronto will have a population of 6,500,000, metropolitan Montreal a population of 6,300,000, metropolitan Vancouver a population of 2,482,000, and metropolitan Ottawa a population of 1,616,000.

Hon. Mr. Flynn: What about St. John's?

Hon. Mr. Buckwold: St. John's will probably make its way too, Senator Flynn.

I point out these figures to indicate to my colleagues the importance of urban affairs in the development of Canada, and the role which the Senate can play.

The isolation of social injustice will also be mitigated through legislation in the field of women's rights and improvements in the Criminal Code to make for more humane treatment of offenders in our penitentiaries, and improvements in our parole system.

Those are the types of isolation referred to in the Speech from the Throne, and I believe the government is trying nobly to overcome them. The Speech from the Throne also refers to communication isolation which will be reduced by improvements in the service provided by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

Finally, honourable senators, I come to the major topic of international isolation. Canada should not set itself apart in its relations with other countries of the world, and the Speech from the Throne indicated, I believe very accurately, Canada's concern for the rest of the world, and especially for our relationship with our neighbour to the south. I am sure our trade relations and problems with the United States will be debated at great length in the future, and we shall have many debates on foreign investment in Canada. My only comment at the moment is that I hope that when a policy does come forward it is carefully thought out. This is a very complex matter which the Government of Canada will have to consider. We should remember the old saying: Marry in haste, repent at leisure. We must balance our need for growth capital and our absolute dependency on the amount of growth we need in order to provide employment for our people against that form of nationalism, which is also, I believe, worthy of serious consideration.

• (2050)

Honourable senators, I have referred to many of the objectives indicated in the Throne Speech which will go towards the elimination of isolation in Canada. They represent a challenging and meaningful national program for Canadians.

The opposite of isolation is togetherness, something very much needed in this country. I sense in this speech the very able hand of our esteemed Prime Minister, to whom Canadian unity has always been a major aspiration. When we eliminate that form of isolationism, and various kinds of human isolation that I have referred to,