

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Our employees are certainly very well paid anyway, so they ought to be able to do a good job once in a while.

So, when it is well done, we are happy to say so, Mr. Speaker, and I want to add this: that document should be made available to all municipal administrators. As far as I am concerned, I have tried to get a number of copies to allow municipal administrators to have a look at it and submit in due course requests regarding those acts.

Here is what we can read on page 20 of the program:

An hon. Member: Which page?

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Page 20.

An hon. Member: We haven't got it!

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): You haven't got it? That is very regrettable, you are behind the times, because you are supposed to have it in the House today when the estimates of the Department of Urban Affairs are discussed.

The federal government, through the Neighbourhood Improvement Program of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, helps municipalities and local residents to keep up and improve the essential urban neighbourhoods threatened with decay and destruction.

Such dilapidated districts can be found in various areas across Canada where services are lacking and should be improved. It is to improve this situation that Parliament voted this legislation.

Districts for which assistance is intended must be mostly residential...

It is one of the major conditions.

... and not occupied primarily...

An hon. Member: That is all well and good.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): You make your speech later on and we will listen to you.

Some hon. Members: Order!

MR. LAMBERT (BELLECHASSE): ... by low income people...

An hon. Member: You read well.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): You, sir, the member for Saint-Denis (Mr. Prud'homme)—

... in these places

An hon. Member: You are out of order. One must say "the hon. member for Saint-Denis".

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): The hon. member for Saint-Denis likes to be respected. I hope he will respect others by setting the example.

In those cases, the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation will finance half the cost of certain types of improvements, and one-fourth of the others. Subsidies are provided for helping to select the neighbourhoods, draw up plans, purchase the land intended for housing, social and recreation facilities, improve municipal facilities and other types of improvements. Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation will also loan the municipality up to 75 per cent of its share of the cost of the project.

The Neighbourhood Improvement Program is subject to a federal-provincial agreement whereby municipalities are chosen in those provinces which are eligible for assistance. The municipality suggests the

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neighbourhoods it would like improved. In every case, the local residents must participate in the planning and execution of the project.

Mr. Speaker, this introduction to the document I have just quoted partly is excellent provided the criteria, the standards required are applied uniformly across Canada and, as far as I am concerned, across Quebec.

We should not proceed in such a way that we give the impression there is discrimination, that some advantages are given to a municipality and refused to another.

I would like to ask the minister to look closely at the applications made to him, at the areas which are accepted by the province, in particular by the province of Quebec, so that other municipalities can have the same advantages by requiring the same conditions and the same criteria. At present, and I hope it is a wrong impression, we can see why one municipality has not been accepted, while another has been, and those are two similar municipalities. Now, I understand one can find differences in studying the records, and those differences must be known to the public, so as not to give way to erroneous judgments which could lead one to think there is patronage in any given place. Such situations must absolutely be avoided.

Now, there is another aspect of the housing problem which is contained in an act, and is still implemented in cooperation with the provinces. I agree that we should try to reach an agreement for the solution of family and low income people housing problem.

Quite recently, more exactly on April 28, the Minister of State for Urban Affairs issued a list of localities which will be eligible for benefits under that federal-provincial agreement to build 38 projects, 1,435 low-income housing units in the province of Quebec, in cooperation with the Quebec Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like once again to request that more information be given to the public on that subject. The matter is more delicate in Quebec than in other provinces, because people are more "touchy" there, given the particular situation, and a certain feeling, I would not say of independence, but of separation, because for my part I make between independence and separation a clear distinction, which I consider necessary. Everybody seeks independence, seeks the power to be self-sufficient, to decide for him or herself. The same holds true for associations, for municipalities and for provinces, and it should be true also for our country Canada: we must be able to decide for ourselves. The best way to make a final choice, is to have the financial means to decide and carry out the decisions made.

As I consider the lengthy list of municipalities that were accepted, I note that an amount of \$30 million was involved. But there are also municipalities in my constituency where the minister has proven generous and I am grateful to him.

An hon. Member: There was no patronage.

Mr. Lambert (Bellechasse): Yes, I am convinced there was no patronage. One thing is sure, had there been any such patronage, I would have had the courage to say so. But I am a person who readily admits matters that are carried out objectively, and I am pleased to say so.