

"consideration", to two other possibilities: first, the taking over by the provincial governments from the cities of all education and welfare costs currently being assumed by them; second, the possibility of establishing in Canada a number of regional governments based on a minimum population of approximately 100,000 people, say, and giving to these regional governments the right of levying their own income tax. Only by giving them greater control over their own economic fate can we enable the metropolitan regions to create the kinds of cities that most of us think are desirable. I think, therefore, that it is time we worked towards some change in how our taxation responsibilities are shared. We must enable the larger urban regions to levy their own income tax.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I urge this House to support the motion before it. The wording of it was carefully considered, and I think it is just. By condemning this government for its failure to develop an urban policy for Canada we shall be giving a voice to thousands of dissatisfied Canadians who want, expect, and deserve to have national leadership in this very, very important matter.

Mr. Lincoln Alexander (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, it gives me a great deal of satisfaction to take part in this debate, because it seems to me that we are at the crossroads in the lives of our cities. Our party, I think it is worth noting, has increasingly shown an interest in the problem of urban growth and has consistently and emphatically advised this government that the action is in the cities.

I think we first brought this matter to the attention of not only the government but many Canadians across the land on December 8, 1969, when the hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) proposed the following motion contained in the special edition of the *P C Communiqué*. The *Communiqué* speaks at great length about the problem of urban development. It reads as follows:

● (4:00 p.m.)

"In the opinion of this House, the government by failing to establish a parliamentary committee to concern itself with the problems of urban people of Canada has neglected an important means of coming to grips with those problems and this House urges that such a committee be established forthwith."

On December 8, 1969, if I am incorrect the date can be checked, the Leader of the Oppo-

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sition indicated most emphatically and emotionally, and I quote:

This motion should have the support of all members of the House. Certainly, it is inconceivable that any member from a large city riding could possibly vote against it. In a moderate and constructive way, this motion represents one step to halt the growing alienation of city dwellers. There is a crisis of confidence in the cities. People are quickly losing confidence not just in the present government, although that is certainly true, but in the capacity of governmental institutions generally to cope effectively with their problems. There is disillusionment and frustration in the cities. It is very serious, and must be taken seriously by Parliament.

Without pointing a finger at any particular urban member, the amazing thing about the motion is that it received no support from any government member representing a city riding. To say the least, this was most discouraging.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Alexander: In order to save face, some hon. members indicated that they would have become involved in that motion except that they could not possibly condemn the government? I say that when it is time to condemn this government a man should condemn it if he is representing his constituency as he should. We are in the midst of a problem area that must certainly be realistically faced, failing which, as the hon. member to my left stated, this country will be in a terrible state. As I said on several occasions, we do not have to look too far to find examples of what I am attempting to point out this afternoon.

I was pleased to hear the statement by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) this afternoon following his return from what I consider to be an extremely important trip during which he, representing Canada, projected an image that is sorely needed, one of responsibility, concern and interest. I remind the Prime Minister that, while he was talking about five countries in which one billion people are demanding of their respective countries a legitimate part in the mainstream of life, there are four or five million of the 21 million Canadians who are looking to this government for improvement in the quality of their lives, that is improvement in the quality of the life of the urban dweller. As I said, this is extremely important as we enter the age of Aquarius.

The current urban crisis, with all its implications and ramifications, is becoming more widely recognized by both laymen and specialists alike, both of whom are demanding