

are basically laid down for urban communities are a deterrent to the development of communities in rural areas. For my part, I have faith in the ability of the minister to come up with constructive suggestions in this regard. One suggestion I might make to him is that in areas such as I have mentioned, where services must be supplied and where no industrial base exists to support the necessary taxation, larger grants, additional grants, should be made so as to assist these communities in their development. It would be a good idea to give authority in the bill itself for the minister to consider the situation of these communities and areas on an individual basis, using his own good judgment, rather than letting the legislation become a strait-jacket of rules.

A word about the regional development legislation. I hope it will succeed in bringing industry into many areas of slow economic growth, including my own. When a community ceases to grow a certain amount of depression is created and many of the people who live in the area feel discouraged. It is, basically, of great importance that from this day onward we should try to get more and more industry out of the large complexes which already exist and begin to develop smaller regions in an effort to give this country greater depth beyond the borderline between Canada and the United States, as well as to provide employment for people who prefer to live in rural areas.

Many of those living in our cities today face a housing crisis. They would not do so if the federal government had the right to develop this country on an economic basis from coast to coast instead of the responsibility being divided among ten provinces. We cannot afford to continue as we are doing. If we build a New York city around the urban complex in Ontario we shall run into the same problems as New York which is already approaching bankruptcy through its efforts to fight pollution.

It would be far cheaper in the long run to spread industry across this country even if this entailed making amendments to the constitution to give the federal government authority to do so, as well as authority to combat pollution. These debates on pollution, these endeavours to pass the buck, are useless.

**Mr. Woolliams:** Then why are you talking about it?

**Mr. Hopkins:** Why was it brought up?

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

### *Alleged Failure to Cope With Urban Growth*

**Mr. Hopkins:** We have spent Monday and today debating problems of pollution for which responsibility is divided between the provincial and federal authorities. The field of the federal authority is that of research. What does this amount to, if it is not trying to pass the buck to Ottawa instead of laying it squarely on the shoulders where it belongs? Those provinces which are really concerned with this matter should adopt an aggressive policy toward pollution in Canada or place the responsibility right here where it should be.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**An hon. Member:** Would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Hopkins:** I would prefer that the hon. member wait until the end.

It would be much cheaper for taxpayers who live in the years to come were we to hold a constitutional conference today, one which faced up to the realization that economic development should be the responsibility of one authority in Canada, namely, the federal government, which would have power to spread this development in order that we might not be called upon to combat pollution in one particular area or in a few areas of this country. Along with that should go extensive measures to control the pollution that is caused by industry wherever industry is sited, in order to see to it that industry toes the line from the beginning. This would mean that we would not all of a sudden be called upon to spend large amounts of the taxpayers' money to combat a problem that would already be well on its way to solution.

● (5:40 p.m.)

I commend these measures to the house and I hope that the legislation being brought in by the Minister of Regional Economic Development will be successful. I also trust that the minister in charge of housing will note my remarks concerning housing in rural areas, small communities or towns that do not have a wealthy industrial base. I trust he will take those remarks into consideration and reimburse those communities for needed services and update those they already have.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** May I now ask the hon. member for Renfrew North my question? In view of the strong stand he has taken, with which I agree, for greater economic powers for the federal government, may I ask him whether he has