

National Housing Act

for Detroit was projected for the next 30 years, and that group could only find the solution by looking at the development between Milwaukee and Quebec city. The Doxiadis group came to the conclusion that a megalopolis would develop on both sides of the St. Lawrence waterway system and around two of the Great Lakes. The following statement appears in a brief resume of the Doxiadis studies:

The 1960 population of the Great Lakes megalopolis was 22.5 million versus 7 millions of the eastern megalopolis. The eastern megalopolis, although older than any other area of heavy population concentration, has a limited growth potential due to geographic considerations. It is predicted that within the next 30 years the Great Lakes megalopolis will actually overtake the eastern megalopolis in population.

The word "overtake" simply means another 15 million people, without taking into account a reasonable increase in the population which will take place in any event. Those who think that Lake Erie, with the population around it now, has a pollution problem should realize the enormity of the problem that will exist around Lake Erie with double the number of inhabitants. The same could be said, I suppose, with regard to Lake Ontario. The fact is that this megalopolis which is foreseen within 30 years, spreading from Milwaukee through Detroit, up both sides of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario and up the St. Lawrence to Quebec City—

● (4:20 p.m.)

An hon. Member: "Down the St. Lawrence", surely?

Mr. McCleave: Yes, down the St. Lawrence to Quebec City. It would go through two provinces and, I suppose, five or six states. This seems to me to be a most compelling argument in favour of a department which could put its resources into planning, in conjunction with Ontario and Quebec, in preparation for what is bound to happen. This department would study the urban transportation situation which is bound to develop. It would study the transit of electric power. This is a major factor and is the reason the Detroit Edison Company commissioned such a study in the first place. There are all sorts of compelling reasons for action on the part of the federal government through a department of the kind I am suggesting if there is to be anything in the nature of a half decent, orderly growth in this area which, in Canada, will stretch from around Windsor to Quebec City. I hope the minister will be able to use

his influence to have this grave deficiency in our present set-up corrected.

In brief, I think most of the measures which have been presented to us by the minister can be supported. They will, of course, be studied in the committee where important questions will, I am sure, be asked, and some amendments put forward. I believe that the clauses dealing with interest might well have been left out of this legislation altogether, at least until we have some control in parliament and in the country over inflation. The bill has many commendable features. Unfortunately, it seems to me that the problems of about half the people of Canada, those in the lower income brackets, will remain largely unsolved despite this legislation.

Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview): It would be very easy for me to say that the minister in charge of housing is a man of compassion, sincerity and ability. He took those qualities with him to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development; he listened patiently to the complaints of the Indians, indeed, he probably listened too patiently because he was subjected to severe criticism from the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and other persons. The effect of this was to render him somewhat ineffective in his performance. It is easy to say he will bring compassion and sincerity to his new duties as minister responsible for housing. But what he really needs is conviction and determination if he is to solve the housing crisis in Canada today.

After listening to his 26-page performance today, I can only conclude that he has attempted to become an image-maker. He has attempted to become the good guy with regard to housing, because housing has become so delicate an issue in Canada that all the newspapers and housing authorities have begun to jump on the government for action. As I listened to the minister's speech I could not help thinking it represented a big, gift-wrapped box with very small gifts contained therein.

I intend to make a few suggestions in the course of my brief remarks. I was pleased by the minister's statement just before resuming his seat that he would welcome any suggestions hon. members might wish to make, and that he hoped they would make their contributions to the debate. Yet when the spokesman for the Conservative party got up, the minister headed straight for the television