

Alleged Failure to Cope With Urban Growth

If the provincial governments do not want this responsibility, I suggest we should hold one of those very congenial federal-provincial conferences and the provinces should hand over the powers they have in respect of pollution control and economic development. We cannot talk about controlling pollution here, there and everywhere else without realizing that it must go hand in hand with the economic development of this nation.

The Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) introduced a bill which would have the effect of spreading out the economic development of Canada. What must the minister do to see that the program is effectively carried out? He must obtain agreement from the provinces because the hands of the federal government are tied.

I hope many hon. members believe as I do that the day the federal government is given extensive powers in the field of economic development and pollution control we will be able to improve the economic development of this country and create a nation which does not have large areas of poverty and areas of great wealth. When the federal government is given these powers the nation will be pollution free wherever industry is to be found. These things must go hand in hand.

I mentioned the legislation regarding regional development. We are talking today about areas in which there is great industrial development. It is in these areas that we have pollution. If we do not spread out our industries across Canada into the smaller communities—I am not for a moment forgetting the Ottawa Valley, because we have not had enough industry in the Upper Ottawa Valley in the last few years to drive out the mosquitoes that we have in the springtime—

Mr. Gilbert: We have had a Liberal government.

Mr. Hopkins: The hon. member for Broadview says we have had a Liberal government. If the federal government has sole responsibility for the state of our economy, why did the government of Ontario introduce its Ontario Development Corporation to promote industry in other areas? Surely this is an admission that economic development is the responsibility of the provinces. I tell the hon. member for Broadview that so much money has been put into the large, growing industrial complexes in certain areas of the country that rural development has suffered. This is why I want to see greater control exercised at the federal level.

[Mr. Hopkins.]

Multilane highways have been built in Toronto. Hon. members have been demanding, and rightly so, urban renewal in certain areas. That this need exists cannot be denied. The problem is there and it has to be solved. But if we continue to let the large urban areas grow we will create more pollution problems for the future. A rural area such as mine does not have good roads into the large urban centres. We do not have enough money for agricultural development in eastern Canada. We hear a great deal about the western farmer. Far too much emphasis has been placed upon the urban areas of Canada. It is time we from the rural areas spoke up at the provincial and federal levels and asked for a square deal for all of Canada.

Mr. Woolliams: What about Toronto and those who come from that city?

• (5:30 p.m.)

Mr. Hopkins: I am not saying anything about voters in Toronto. I heard a comment from the hon. member for—I hope I name him correctly—Calgary East—

An hon. Member: No.

Mr. Hopkins: Calgary North. I am sure the voters in Toronto want to see a cure for this problem. I do not think they are so greedy that they will demand everything in Canada. I know them better than that.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Hopkins: I am glad the minister in charge of housing is here. I appreciate the effort and the time he is spending on the development of housing in rural areas. I think it is a great injustice that an area such as mine in Renfrew County or the district of Nipissing must abide by what are in effect urban rules if it is to get housing at all. Towns like Petawawa and Pembroke which are largely dormitory towns. There is little industrial base there by comparison with wealthier cities in this country. The cost of all the services needed for the development of housing in a town like Pembroke rests largely on the shoulders of the residential community, imposing a heavy burden. This again is a matter for the provincial administration, because that is where control of municipal taxation lies.

I hope the minister responsible for housing comes up with a constructive program to include housing in areas which do not have sewer and water lines combined. Laws which