

Interim Supply

to newspapers before the committee has made its report to the House of Commons, and therefore any approach—

The Chairman: Order, please. The hon. member must realize that the decision he now is faced with is no longer a simple ruling of the chairman but a decision of the House of Commons. I ask the hon. member to respect that decision.

Mr. Woolliams: In view of the fact you are now suggesting that I cannot discuss any aspect of this matter I will abide by your ruling and resume my place.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Plourde: I shall be very brief, Mr. Chairman, because I would not want the passage of interim supply to be delayed indefinitely. There are three clear and simple points I wish to bring to the attention of the government.

Here is the first one. The government should undertake to eliminate slums in our cities through a well-defined program and, with the co-operation of the provinces, to renovate the blighted areas in our cities, following agreements with town planning councils, so that once the program is fully carried out, everything would look wonderful.

Blighted and unhealthy areas such as those exist in Quebec and Montreal. But those homes should also be given all the comfort required: enough room, good lighting, easy maintenance, sufficient space in which to put the car and also for the children to play.

Rents should be truly reasonable and within the means of small wage earners because until now the government has never considered such a program. Instead, it has used poulitices to meet the needs and has built so-called low rental units but you should see what they call low rents.

Such a housing project called Les patios has been carried out in my riding under that federal legislation; they have the crust to ask \$85 a month and over for rent. The units are badly built so that they are exceedingly warm in summer and very cold in winter.

A special credit provided by the Bank of Canada at very low interest rates—equivalent to service costs—should be made available for the rehabilitation of the blighted areas in our cities. That would get the provinces and municipalities interested in the restoration of such areas.

We could, in this fashion, relieve the distress and poverty which exist even in this 20th century. We would, at the same time, be helping the aged with small incomes and

[Mr. Woolliams.]

those workers who fail to adapt themselves to present day conditions either because they are too young to retire or too old to be classified as readaptable in the labour market.

By rebuilding certain parts of our cities, we would develop the labour market and, by so doing, reduce unemployment, all the while using our materials which abound in this great Canada of ours.

The second point I should like to bring to the attention of this committee is the urgent matter of railway crossings in the old Quebec capital. It is a continuous hazard for car drivers and for all the people of that city and I think that in that regard, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) would only have to refer to the remarks of my hon. colleague from Quebec East (Mr. Beaulé) to ascertain how easy it would be to carry out such a change.

I take this opportunity to read into the record a request which came to me from the Quebec and district labour council. A copy was sent to the Minister of Transport, the mayor of Quebec city, the Speaker of the Senate, hon. members for Quebec South (Mr. Cantin), Quebec East, Quebec-Montmorency (Mr. Marcoux), myself and also to the presidents of the C.N.R. and the C.P.R.

Sir,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of a resolution passed by our council at its last regular meeting.

The object of the said resolution is to protest against the many grade crossings existing in the old capital city. We believe that such a situation is indeed an unnecessary shortcoming and that it represents a continuous hazard for the car drivers and the whole people of Quebec city.

The whole matter is submitted to your attention and in advance, we thank you for all you could do to remedy such a deplorable situation.

Yours very truly,

The Quebec and District Labour Council
by Thérèse Belleau
corresponding secretary

The third point I wish to raise in this house, concerns the Minister of Transport and has to do with the Quebec piloting office.

For many years those workers have been called upon to work overtime for which they are paid one month and a half later. But this year many employees are complaining that they have not yet received their salaries for overtime done in June and which should have been paid on August 15, overtime done in July which should have been paid on September 15 and overtime done in August which should have been paid on October 15.

I would like to ask the Minister of Transport to give us the reasons for and cause of