

*Suggested Lack of Urban Policy*

is not only outmoded but it is primeval, wrong and unjust. There is no possible justification for the family home and family farm. to bear such a heavy education tax burden.

I do not think it is good enough to say that these are matters which must be sorted out between the provincial governments and municipal governments. I am sure the minister will be the first to agree that no one should hide behind the British North America Act, as was suggested this afternoon. There must be a totally new redistribution of responsibilities and revenues among the various levels of government. One of the first reforms should be to finance our system of education basically and almost entirely on an ability to pay basis. On one hand we are inclined to tell the people of Canada that education is one of the greatest resources available and that we will have to develop as many educated Canadians as possible.

This is a sound concept. As well, we tell them that one of the most important programs is that of retraining people in new skills and making available to them the opportunity to travel to areas where those skills are required. Yet little has been done to improve the ability of local government to help finance these programs and the problems and challenges which ensue.

The local people of Calgary, Vancouver, Montreal and Quebec City educate young people who may proceed to move to Toronto, or to other parts of Canada. Unlike previous times, the local community may never benefit from the basic investment in education which its taxpayers have invested in those people. We have to make changes.

Since the industrial revolution the cities of the world have become the handmaidens of industrial development. Land use over the years has tended to be less of a subordinate of over-all planning and more of a servant of economic efficiency. It has been assumed that the owner would use the land so as to obtain the highest return. It has been said that the aesthetic consequences of this conception of the city have been uniformly disastrous. It has sometimes been argued that out of the unregulated pursuit of individual advantage would come a pattern of urban development which would have an unplanned but functional duty. Today we know that this is complete nonsense. The results of uncontrolled pursuit of economic advantage in the use of urban land space is no more likely to be beautiful and harmonious than that of uncontrolled

digging for minerals or coal in the countryside. A recent United Nations report states as follows:

For the first time in the history of mankind, there is arising a crisis of worldwide proportions involving developed and developing countries alike—the crisis of human environment.

Portents of this crisis have long been apparent in the explosive growth of human population, in the poor integration of a powerful and efficient technology with environmental requirements, in the deterioration of agricultural lands, in the unplanned extension of urban areas, in the decrease of available space and the growing danger of extinction of many forms of animal and plant life.

• (8:30 p.m.)

As has been stated so eloquently today by spokesmen from all parties, urban growth is one aspect of this formidable catalogue of challenges. We find it here in Canada. Fortunately, we may be in time to deal with it. A group of hon. members from all parties decided some time ago to study the problems of urban environmental growth in the megalopolis of New York. Some of my hon. friends will remember that visit to the New York department of health and sanitation. It was disturbing to review a situation which is virtually out of control. We were shown a vast map in the office of the organization; there were red flags on it and there were blue flags. "What are the red flags for?" we asked.

**An hon. Member:** They are the Liberals.

**Mr. Perrault:** We were told that the red flags represented areas where rat-bites had been severe in recent weeks. Every one of those flags represented areas afflicted by poverty, disease and a low standard of living. The blue flags represented areas where youngsters in tenement districts had eaten lead paint from the walls because their diet was insufficient. The officials who explained this added, "We are supposed to be the richest city in the entire world. If we were faced with a situation of the kind which exists in Toronto or Montreal, we would do things differently because there would be time." So there may yet be time in Canada for enlightened urban development.

In this regard, surely the opposition does not expect the minister responsible for housing and urban affairs to leap to his feet with words of instant wisdom of a kind which has eluded others in the world who are just now coming to grips with the urban problem. It