

*Income Tax Act*

municipality that wanted to equip itself with a water treatment plant to do so. When talking of pollution, one has to start at the beginning. If a municipality wants to equip itself with a water treatment plant the government should not, in view of the fact that the problem of pollution is after all a national one, hesitate to vote supplies allowing that municipality to acquire such a plant. This could be done through grants, and I do not think there is any other way of going about it.

I think the government should seriously consider granting supplies at reasonable interest rates not only for public utilities but also to municipalities.

In some cases, municipalities probably face financial difficulties. We know that only the payment of interest represents for certain municipalities more than 30 per cent of their budget. It is therefore easy to show the need for such legislation and I believe the government should consider more and more the advisability of certain recreational facilities for instance. Governments have undoubtedly tried to help municipalities in recreational matters. I wonder whether a really practical solution was found. I think a basis must be established at this time when recreation is becoming increasingly important and working hours are reduced. We must seriously consider the possibility of providing more recreational facilities to our citizens and I wonder whether the government should not consider establishing at the earliest possible date a policy of grants for some recreational facilities.

If we consider subsidizing the purchase of equipment, the building of arenas, the development of baseball parks or any other project, each municipality will be able to organize itself in a better way in so far as it is able to purchase equipment. The federal government should soon discuss with the provinces the granting of moneys for these projects.

This has not always been government policy but since people require more and more recreational facilities it is urgent to work out a policy enabling the large municipalities to provide for recreational centres and to organize recreational facilities which are as essential to grown-ups as they are to younger people.

I would like to urge the government very strongly to continue the Opportunities for Youth program. Resort as it might to measures consistent with bill C-259, for lower taxation or other benefits, though I am surely in favour of this bill, since it shows the government's willingness to do more and better, I feel that the government nonetheless is experiencing some difficulties while looking for simple solutions. Considering the tremendous insight I gained in my constituency last summer, I feel I am entitled to request from the government the resumption of opportunities for Youth program as soon as possible.

This is part of a resolution which was prepared at the local meeting in my constituency to which I referred a moment ago. The young participants at that meeting were very happy with its results and asked me to apply pressure on the government to have it announce as soon as possible the resumption of the program though it should take care to make a better choice of projects, and to allow the necessary time to prepare them.

I hope that the minister will before long make such an announcement, so that more young people might partici-

pate in the projects next year, since the Opportunities for Youth program allowed several municipalities to increase the number of their instructors according to their needs.

Also, I wish to say a few words in favour of the co-operatives and the caisses populaires. We know very well that Bill C-259 seems to enormously inconvenience the caisses populaires and the co-operatives.

• (8:30 p.m.)

I will refrain from tabling or mentioning all the recommendations I have received from the co-operatives and the caisses populaires. I know that others before me have dealt with the matter. I also know that the government has received many recommendations asking the Minister of Finance to give special consideration to the situation of these co-operatives and caisses populaires.

I hope the government will pay special attention to the situation of co-operatives. I cannot help but mention the importance taken, especially in the province of Quebec, by the Caisses populaires Desjardins, and I venture to think that Quebec members will not hesitate to give them their support. I am pleased to say in this House that the Caisses populaires Desjardins movement in the province of Quebec is important. I will give other members the opportunity to defend the caisses populaires or the credit unions. Quebecers can be proud of owning a movement crowned with success in the field of economy.

I trust that hon. members from Quebec, regardless of their political affiliations, will make it a point to ask the Minister of Finance to study carefully the representations of the Caisses Populaires Desjardins, which were successful in our province and should continue to enjoy advantages enabling them to continue to grow. In short, the movement is at the service of a community in need of it in the present economic context.

I especially appeal to all hon. members from Quebec, who are better acquainted with the Caisses populaires Desjardins, in order that the Minister of Finance will acknowledge in all fairness the importance of such a movement for the French-speaking people in the province of Quebec. This will certainly not prevent our backing similar pleas from other hon. members in favour of comparable movements outside Quebec and which are essentially making similar representations.

I do hope that all these representations and all these requests will sufficiently stir the minister and make him understand that co-operative movements, particularly the Caisses populaires Desjardins, really need the privileges they were enjoying before the introduction of Bill C-259 in order to answer the needs of their members who, finally, pursue an objective and an ideal worthy of encouragement.

I would not like to hold the House too long, so I shall not add to the comments I made because I am very interested both in the bill and in the representations from some associations.

Personally, I think the amendment deserved special attention, because of its importance, to remedy unemployment and inflation. But I also think that as it is the bill contains enough good provisions to deserve support. As an independent member, I shall be glad and honored to support the bill. However, I should point out that I did not

[Mr. Salle.]