

Alleged Failure to Cope With Urban Growth

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I emphasize that it is only through the expression and resolution of these creative tensions that the urban artifacts we create will be given authentic vitality. As I have said in the house previously, it is my intention to do all I can to foster this spirit of co-operation which will be so vitally required.

Mrs. MacInnis: Mr. Speaker, will the minister permit a question before he sits down? Officials in Vancouver and various groups have expressed the urgent hope that the minister will visit urban renewal projects in that area. Has he decided to go to Vancouver?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I am very keen to do this because of representations made directly by the Chinese. There are other considerations prompting me to do this having to do with the Strathcona project and the A-1 project. I must consult my time schedule because I do not wish to delay too long. The hon. member's area is one of the areas I should prefer to see before any final decision is made.

Mr. Gilbert: Will the minister permit another question, Mr. Speaker? Can he tell us how many public housing units are to be built in Canada this year and what moneys the government has allocated for this purpose?

Mr. Andras: Mr. Speaker, I regret that I have not at my fingertips a breakdown of the C.M.H.C. capital budget. I am looking at the combination of that program which we know as "16". There is limited dividend housing under what we know as "16A". There are also non-profit programs and the two direct assistance projects which involve 75 per cent federal and 25 per cent provincial participation. There is also our 35D program with respect to federal loans to provincial housing authorities. Altogether, and I hope the hon. member will bear with me as I look at the figures, current programs for low income housing needs are set at \$395 million this year. I shall have to do some addition in order to arrive at more accurate figures. Last year we put into public housing the sum of \$149 million. This year I have allocated for that purpose directly the sum of \$180 million. It should be remembered in that context that the limited dividend figure for last year was \$27 million; for this year it is to be \$80 million. For non-profit, 16A housing, the figure in this area last year was \$59 million. This year it is to be \$80 million. I will obtain a breakdown later

[Mr. Deputy Speaker.]

on, but these figures indicate that we shall be building 20,000 units.

• (4:40 p.m.)

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Alexander) for placing the motion we are now discussing on the order paper and for his very excellent introduction of the motion.

I suggest the speech to which we have just listened by the amiable Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Andras) in charge of housing was the very best illustration possible of the fact that he and his colleagues in the government do not even understand the language of the motion and the problems about which most of us are concerned. I was rather surprised to hear him indulge in a kind of sophistry that really was depressing to me, a sophistry that says everything we do has to do with urban people; our manpower programs, hospital commitments, contributions to universities and all these things are helping the urban problem. I was surprised the minister did not mention the fact that our expenditures in the realm of national defence are also for the defence of our cities as well as our countryside. I say to the minister this is not the problem at all.

The minister should not indulge in the kind of sophistry which says the federal government spends money that is of benefit to the Canadian people and since 70 per cent of the Canadian people live in cities, obviously they are beneficiaries of the policies of the federal government. This is not the issue. It is not the problem put before the minister. He has not dealt with the problem at all. He has not even shown that he understands what the problem is about.

The problem in my opinion is as stated by the hon. member for Hamilton West and the Economic Council of Canada. It is precisely because of our constitutional division of power, because the municipalities are the creatures of the provincial legislatures under our constitution, because the authority is divided, and because the municipalities do not have the funds to deal with the problem, that it is essential in all areas of urban concern for the federal government, speaking for all the people of Canada, to take the initiative and leadership in getting the provinces and municipalities to discuss and, if possible, to solve the municipal problems.

No one is arguing with the minister or the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) about the constitution. Every hon. member in this house,