

*The Address—Mr. Givens*

world of paradox. The city is at the centre of this paradox. It is a symbol of economic success and a reflection of our inability to use this success to create an environment worthy of man's aspirations. It has brought large numbers of people into closer contact and interaction with each other; yet in spite of the extent and variety of this human interaction, the city is a lonely place for many people. Alienation and isolation appear to be more prevalent in today's urban society than in the largely rural society of earlier years.

In this earlier society much of the energy of people was absorbed in the task of feeding themselves. The city is the result of a large-scale emancipation from this task and growing opportunities for man to turn his efforts and ingenuity to producing a growing array of goods and services to satisfy not only his wants but also his whims. But in today's big cities undernourishment, deprivation and poverty still remain as large-scale problems in the midst of affluence. The modern city is also the result of the development and harnessing of vast new sources of energy which give man powers that would have been unimaginable to the people of earlier times; but this is also leading to rapidly escalating problems of pollution.

The paradox has so many dimensions; the beauty of art and museums barely removed from the ugliness and squalor of slums; the magic of music now so readily and widely available through new technology, surrounded by noise and din accentuated by other advances in technology; the growing opportunities which cities afford for constructive human endeavour, against a background of increasingly destructive crime, violence and delinquency; shorter hours of work and more leisure associated with a more hectic pace of life and frequently with the absorption of a great deal of time and effort in getting to work and back home; the advances in the healing arts in our cities and strain on human beings; the surge of new knowledge from our centres of learning, side by side with bewilderment about how to cope effectively with mounting urban problems.

Perhaps it is because the large city is such a recent phenomenon of civilization that we do not yet know how to cope effectively with the range of problems to which it is giving rise. But it is a phenomenon which is now posing urgent challenges that cannot be ignored. We still have lower densities and more options for alternative future growth patterns of our cities than is the case in some

other countries. But our cities are growing with dramatic speed, faster than most cities in the United States and very much faster than those in almost any other industrially advanced nation in the world today.

It is true, of course, that cities, and even quite large cities, existed in the past; but because so much of the total effort of earlier societies had to be spent on the production of food, no ancient city or group of cities contain more than a small fraction of the total population, not even the voters that existed when the Canadian constitution, the British North America Act, was fashioned 100 years ago. Twentieth century technology has permitted the removal of limits. In their impact on urban development, these technological advances have been two-edged. On the one hand, they have facilitated an enormous increase in the productivity of farmers and have thereby permitted growing numbers of people to flow to the cities. So powerful have been these forces of technological advance, acting and interacting with many other forces making for growth and change, that they have introduced possibilities for the development of mammoth agglomerations of people into areas which we do not yet know how to describe. Somehow the term "city" no longer seems to be appropriate for some of the largest of these agglomerations. We have begun to talk about "metropolitan areas" or "conurbation", and in each year that passes there seems to be more certainty, and less speculation, that we are moving inexorably toward future patterns of nearly continuous urban areas hundreds of miles in length, linking many once separate cities together. This we now call a megalopolis.

It is especially difficult for many people to recognize the extent and swiftness of Canada's urban growth. Perhaps this is particularly true of people outside of Canada who look from afar at our huge land area and our relatively small total population; who see Canada as a land of large-scale agricultural activity and rich and widely spread natural resource production; who think of Canada in terms of the historical development of the fur trade, the fisheries, the forests and the open grain fields. These people envy from afar the clear brisk waters of innumerable lakes and rivers, the open sky and, above all, space. Even today when they read about Canada in their newspapers they are still likely to find a heavy concentration of attention on new resource and energy projects in remote locations, on tourist attractions and on other

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