

Urban Affairs

can be put to immediate, practical implementation in every region of the country, and in communities of every size. I reiterate that there are many programs, and many projects and ideas which can use the "lift-off"—a word coined by the present generation—that can be generated by this fund and this program.

For example, Mr. Speaker, I have visited the city of Vernon in British Columbia, as has the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield), a city which has shown great leadership in developing a new way of removing not 90 per cent, not 95 per cent, not 98 per cent of the effluent from its sewer system flowing into the beautiful Okanagan water basin, but of removing 100 per cent, thereby producing a method of preserving in perpetuity the complete purity of that water. The city needs some financial support and I have committed support to it. I only hope that when the Leader of the Opposition goes to Vernon, for the fourth time this year, he will inform the mayor of Vernon that the Conservative party is opposed to that kind of project, to that kind of real work being done on an Okanagan problem.

We have talked a lot in this House about Metis and native housing, and about the need to solve the housing problems of those people. The hon. member ridiculed my statement the other day, my statement which was well received by the leaders of that group. One thing the native and Metis associations say in all their briefs is that they need financial support in the northern prairies, in Northern Ontario and in Northern British Columbia to build houses designed not for Toronto or Winnipeg, but houses suitable for the north, using local labour and local products.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Basford: I hope the Conservative party will point out to Tony Belcourt and the other native leaders that that party is opposed to their using this kind of program.

There are proposals for the complete redevelopment of many of the waterfront areas in Canada, for example of the waterfront in the city of Halifax. Without going into the details of the project or referring to private participation in that program and the roles of the various governments, may I say it seems to me that if we can take the heart of Halifax and redevelop that waterfront in a new and better way, then we should do it. We should give the project every possible encouragement and support. I only hope that the next time the Leader of the Opposition is in Halifax he will tell the mayor that he is opposed to that kind of approach to the problems in the city of Halifax, or for that matter in the city of Vancouver, where we have somewhat the same proposal in mind.

In my speech yesterday I talked about new methods of dealing with human waste disposal. I hope to have, in operation, in the city of Toronto by the end of 1974, not in some professor's laboratory but in a real building in the city of Toronto, one of these new methods which, if successful, as I am convinced it will be, could reduce the cost of a serviced lot in Metro Toronto, or anywhere else, by several thousands of dollars. Now, I am delighted to have it on the record that the Conservative party is opposed to seeking these kinds of solutions to our housing and urban problems.

[Mr. Basford.]

We have passed legislation in this House to provide government leadership and support for the repair and rehabilitation of older core areas in our cities and towns. This will require the imaginative use of that land. Municipal leaders all across the country have plans to go into these older areas and construct low density housing quarters in them. That is the kind of project that could be supported under the demonstration program, to show mayors and councils how to redevelop the older cores of their cities. But the Conservative party is opposed to that kind of approach.

The other day the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby spoke to me about relocation of the airport in Oshawa and converting it into 600 acres of residential land. Yesterday I met with an Oshawa planner in Toronto and discussed this project with him. I have instructed my officials to look into this situation. There are transportation difficulties and financial difficulties but if we can solve them, and if by the use of imagination we can show how to relocate an airport and use that land for residential purposes, surely that is the kind of experimental project, the kind of innovative project we should be supporting. Therefore I hope for the support of the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby to this kind of approach.

Each Canadian is the producer of one ton of garbage annually. Perhaps the figure is higher on the opposite side of the House. That amount is increasing year by year, and conventional land fill sites are being moved farther and farther outside city boundaries, to the disgust of city taxpayers and rural residents. The garbage can be pulverized and burned, which not only reduces it to a small residue but provides steam power which can be sold by municipalities. This is another demonstration project that needs to be considered. Hon. members opposite laughed at that suggestion but yesterday in the debate the same suggestion came from the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling), who said this is one of the urban problems in this country which must be solved.

● (1600)

Mr. Speaker, the hon. member over there—

An hon. Member: Which one?

Mr. Basford: —in the official opposition, the hon. member for Calgary North (Mr. Woolliams) and others, are aware that the current housing programs of this government will produce 250,000 units or more of housing in this period 1974.

An hon. Member: At what price?

Mr. Basford: The demonstration program and fund are intended to complement that, to support it, to extend what we are doing in housing and the broader field of urban affairs. It is intended to generate solutions to transit problems, to environmental problems, to energy problems and so forth. It is a program of action to generate solutions, just as our housing program is action to generate new and better housing and greater access to housing for all Canadians.

In his speech, the hon. member sought the support of all members of the House for this motion, sought the support