

*Social Development Ministry*

Recently the *Toronto Star* did an article on the kinds of families which are emerging today. There are an amazing number of kinds of families which are emerging with different roles. There are lots of people who are not going to have children. In fact, I gather there are lots of people who are not going to get married and have children. There are a variety of ways in which we are going to renew the family.

● (1600)

Second, neighbourhoods and places of living are going to be changed because the workplace and the living place, Toffler says, are going to be the same.

Third, the corporation will change. The corporation began as an economic instrument but it will increasingly be judged by its social policies as much as its economic policies. Indeed, that is already the case. It is increasingly being measured not only by its economic performance but by how well it manages the environment in which it is involved, by how well it deals with its employees and how well it organizes itself in relation to the social problems of its own employees. The corporation is already changing and will have changed even more so by the year 2000.

Fourth, Toffler says there will be a rebirth of the sense of community and the need for community. It may be very difficult for some people to see this but if we look around we can see that what the minister is involved in has indeed changed. Change is basic to the human condition, but so also, is order and continuity. If we look ahead 20 years we will see that our major problem of social development will be to find a way to deal with that change and convert it into order and continuity.

In the past we have relied upon the life rafts that have always been there—the church, the family, the neighbourhood and social groups. The minister's responsibility is to find ways to deal with the change that is coming—ways to pour new wine into old bottles. It is incumbent upon him to find ways of renewing our institutions—family, neighbourhood, church and social groups—so that change can be converted into order and continuity. It is within that context that I should like to use the time remaining to me to look at some very specific issues regarding social development in the 1980s.

First of all, over the next decade it will become essential to relate economic policy to social policy. For a long time there has been an artificial split between the two. The interdependence between economic policy and social policy is so clear in our everyday lives that we forget how important they ought to be in the organization of government services. Income security programs, for example, are not just a question of the right to social assistance; they can be affected by programs in relation to income tax, employment and manpower retraining as well.

Just the other day some questions were put to the Minister of Finance (Mr. MacEachen) about the indexation of income tax. The questions were essentially about whether the government needed more money in order to meet its deficit. Important as that may be, Mr. Speaker, most Canadians feel that the real import of that policy is whether it removes the

protections they now have against inflation through indexation of income tax. Although it may fall into the category of an economic policy, the removal of indexation of income tax will have a devastating effect on Canadians, particularly those in the low income group or those of modest means.

The second issue is one which I touched on earlier, the matter of corporations. We will not only be concerned with their economic performance in the future but also their non-economic performance as it touches upon consumer protection policies, the environment, the problem of alcoholism among employees or whatever the social problem may be. It may also lead to new observations about new forms of corporations that relate to the community. Community economic development is another straw in the wind but it will become more important as we become increasingly dependent upon communities.

Third, we will have to deal with the problem of equal pay for equal opportunities as it concerns handicapped people and women. There has been a lot of talk about this in the past few years but I think now the talking stage is over. I am sure the minister will be interested in developing policies to ensure there will be no distinction in the opportunities offered to our sons and daughters. Every father and mother knows that their daughters and sons are equally bright, equally intelligent and equally able. A society that does not offer them equal economic opportunity is no longer acceptable.

Fourth, we will have to deal with the question of income disparity. The billions of dollars which have been injected into income transfer programs in the past 20 years have not changed the range of disparity at all. The programs were welcome because things would have been worse without them. We put a great deal of time into trying to find income supplementation programs for the working poor. I like hockey players, Mr. Speaker, but we must think about the money we pay them when compared to the salaries paid to doctors. It is becoming more important that we find a way to put some relative and reasonable limit on the range of incomes.

Housing is another problem. In 1978 the government decided to get out of the housing business and now there is no housing policy. Things look worse for the future. On Saturday I had the opportunity to preside at the opening of the J. S. Woodsworth housing co-operative in the city of Toronto which is the fifth in the Cabbagetown area. The minister might want to consult with the minister responsible for CMHC to see what can be done about co-operatives because I believe they are becoming increasingly important.

The minister was far too modest in his comments, Mr. Speaker. He has an overriding responsibility in this field as set out in subparagraph (c) on page 3 of the proposed order in council as follows:

(c) he shall lead and co-ordinate the efforts of the Government of Canada to establish and to clarify co-operative relationships with the provinces and with public and private organizations, to foster conditions that allow and assist the development of the individual, the family and the community;—

That does not say that he takes notes from other ministers or that he is just there to integrate; it says he shall "lead and co-ordinate". I take that very seriously, Mr. Speaker, because