

simply to balance the budget. This government has no feeling for the people, Mr. Speaker. It has no feeling for minorities.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Comeau: The bill to give effect to bilingualism has been passed, but you can't eat that. It makes me sick when the government says, we have no money for little dredging jobs; we have no money for little post offices; we have no money for this and no money for that. There is all kinds of money, and the government knows it, but they have no feeling for the poor.

Yesterday the Minister of Transport stated we must adopt long-term policies. I agree with this, but the long-term policies of the government seem to mean that everybody should be moved to the urban areas. This will create ghettos or, as somebody suggested to me yesterday, anthills. We read in the newspapers criticisms to the effect that Maritimers who move to Toronto do not know how to live. We Maritimers are being criticized every day. I saw an article last week setting out the conditions it is alleged we cannot accept, yet the policies of this government drive us to the highly industrialized, heavily populated centres of Canada. When the services are removed the people have no choice, they have to move.

The industries also have no choice but to settle in urban Canada. How can industry be expected to settle in sections of Canada which have no services such as post offices, trains or Air Canada? More problems are being created by these people moving to the urban areas. We heard again today about the government's concern regarding urbanization. Everyone is talking about urbanization. There are many problems in urban Canada. People do not wish to spend one hour driving one mile to work. They do not want to pay \$10,000 or \$15,000 for a lot 30 by 100 feet when there is plenty of land available in Canada, nor do they want to live in a \$250 a month, three bedroom apartment with seven children.

• (2:50 p.m.)

Do not talk to me about long-term policies if the only thing you can do is move people from rural Canada to urban Canada. I predict that in 20 years time the government will want to change this whole policy; there will be such a mess in our cities that they will want to drive people back to the rural parts of Canada.

The present administration does not seem to be concerned about the quality of the life

The Address—Mr. Winch

of Canadians. Rural people are not really poor as we know the poor in the cities. Basically, they enjoy a good life. They work peacefully, do a little hunting, a little fishing. The quality of life in the rural parts of Canada is probably far superior to the quality of life in most of the urban centres, and in these circumstances some hon. members may wonder what I am complaining about. What I am saying is this: for goodness sake do not take away all the services needed by those who prefer to stay in the countryside. Let them enjoy things. Do not make it inevitable that they must move to the urban centres. If you want to change the nature of these services, then provide alternatives. It is not good enough simply to cut back. We have enough highly-paid civil servants to come up with better policies than we have produced so far.

What are the priorities now envisaged? I did not see anything in the Speech from the Throne of much concern to those living on welfare. The speech did mention something about building new houses, but we should not forget that a great many of our people simply cannot afford to buy them. Interest rates today are so high that few people can afford to borrow. No one can apply successfully for a housing loan unless he makes \$8,000 a year. The effectiveness of the welfare system is basic to meeting the needs of the working poor, as well as others. These people are caught in the system and I hope we can prevent this situation. To do so may, indeed, be the objective of the government; I hope so. Perhaps I should not be too critical. Maybe the government knows what it is doing. But, Mr. Speaker, every government we have had since 1867 gave the impression of knowing what it was doing. And still there is poverty. There should be no need for a man to write to me today and say: I have 14 children, I am on welfare; they can take away their God-darned welfare if they wish; provide me with a job. This kind of thing makes me mad. Many of us come here with certain objectives in mind, a certain amount of initiative and a desire to do things for the people who are caught up in the system. I would say the present government is not helping matters. Canada is rich, and all parts of it could be developed if we were to stop and think for a little while and start being less political.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Harold E. Winch (Vancouver East): On rising to make my contribution to the debate on the address I should like, first of all, to