

*National Housing Act*

housing. I suggest that the Federal Government should allow modest payments to assist displaced families and individuals in re-establishing themselves at their new locations. This payment should be made to any displaced individual or family to meet their reasonable and necessary removal expenses. I include legal expenses in this, Mr. Chairman, for if a family or individual is moved because the city expropriates the land, legal expenses are incurred. When they sell a house and move, they must pay legal fees; and when they are rehoused in another area they must pay legal fees. I think some consideration must be given by the Federal Government, in consultation with the Provincial Governments and Municipalities, to reimbursing these people at least for the legal fees which must be paid out of their pockets and which otherwise would not be necessary.

I am one of those also, Mr. Chairman, who believe that the Federal Government should set up a Department of Housing and Urban Development. I have believed this for many years. I believe that a full time Minister—not that I am criticizing the present Minister's work in this regard—should be appointed, and all the functions of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation could be transferred intact to this Department. I do not know if the Minister will agree with me, but the President of C.M.H.C. could become the Deputy Minister of that new department. Our urban problems are of a scope and magnitude that demand representation at the highest level of Government, and I suggest that the responsibilities of this department would be to advise the Government on urban affairs and to develop and recommend policies for fostering the orderly development of our urban areas. It could exercise leadership in co-ordinating urban activities at the Federal level and provide assistance and information to the Provincial and Municipal Governments. It could encourage comprehensive planning at all levels of Government. This department could also conduct continuing studies on housing and urban development problems.

We must recognize that housing and community development in Canada are in a period of transition, and that the pattern of organization at the Federal, Provincial and Municipal levels will be undergoing change for some period of time to come. Cities everywhere are looking for a better administrative pattern under which to mesh the many functions of Government that relate to community rebuilding. I feel that the Federal Government can and should give the lead here.

I certainly feel that the Federal Government should also consider the establishment of an Institute of Urban Development. This institute should be used to plan for the growth and development of an entire metropolitan area, and would require trained personnel. We in Canada do not have the vital human resources required for metropolitan planning. We are in short supply, and they are inaccessible to many of our local governments.

• (4:00 p.m.)

To help meet this need for trained personnel the Federal Government could establish, as part of the new Department of Housing, or perhaps even in one of the universities of Canada, a government-supported training scheme similar to that which we have in the Labour College. An institute of urban development would help to train local officers in a wide range of administrative proposals dealing with urban affairs.

We realize that whatever the scale of this program, the Federal Government would only be able to do a small part of what is required. The vast bulk of resources, energy, talent and work would have to come from provincial and municipal governments, and in particular from municipal governments. The initiative in respect of urban renewal as well as public housing must come from the municipal and local levels. The Federal Government does have a responsibility, and it must help to meet the most urgent part of the needs for housing and urban renewal. It must also be sure that its efforts serve as a catalyst or lever to help guide provincial and municipal governments in meeting their housing and urban renewal needs.

I should like to quote from Aristotle who said:

Men come together in cities in order to live. They remain together in order to live the good life.

The modern city can be, I suggest, a most ruthless enemy of the good life, or it can be its servant. The choice is up to us Canadians, to take it or to leave it. I suggest that we have now grasped the situation and are moving ahead. I do not think we in Canada will ever look backwards.

As I stated earlier, Mr. Chairman, I must compliment the Government for coming to this House, so soon after passing important amendments in June, 1964, to ask for additional financial assistance. At the time of the amendments the Minister stated that if more money was needed to do the job, he would come before this House and ask for more