

• (2:10 p.m.)

So that this is understood absolutely and unequivocally, let me quote my own words which were read for me in a speech in Montreal on October 8, the day the government's proposed formation of this ministry was announced:

And the federal government today recognizes in a concrete way that it is deeply involved, in myriad but often unco-ordinated ways, in the problems of Canadian cities already; it recognizes that it must transform that involvement in much more integrated ways. These will be ways, I want to emphasize to you, in which the watchword will be scrupulous and careful co-operation with the provincial governments and, through them, with municipal governments. A co-ordination of federal roles affecting the cities—yes. Federal intrusion into areas not its own—no. Federal co-operation, consultation—maybe even some degree of joint planning if the provinces wish—yes. Federal movement into new jurisdictions, wielding new powers—no—not anywhere in Canada.

So, it is within the present constitutional boundaries that we will work. The constitution does not need to be bent, or broadened to implement an urban policy of choice. If we can get the kind of reasearch, planning and program co-ordination and co-operation that we hope for, if we can get the three levels of government working together in much greater concert, we can begin to stop duplication and waste, programs that conflict, programs that are instituted to solve one problem without real regard for other problems they may cause. We can begin to get decisions on whether we in fact want our cities to develop unconstrained; and if we do not want that, we can find alternatives to proffer.

This ministry of state for urban affairs and housing will first of all be concerned with bringing order in the federal House as it affects the cities. I need hardly note for hon. members how massively the federal government is in the cities already. We have powerful direct impact through housing, land assembly and sewage programs, with a great influence on the location, growth and structure of urban areas.

We have a similar influence through our use of a very great deal of urban space federally owned or leased, and an influence in taxes paid, urban demands created and incomes earned. I am thinking of where we locate public buildings, airports, railways, harbours, military centres, communications facilities and a score of other things.

There are now 112 federal programs involving financing elements of the urban process, and 131 research programs applying to elements of the urban process. There are 27 departments and agencies which have influence of one degree or another in the cities. I am afraid that in large part the federal departments and agencies have not worked well enough and interdependently enough with each other, and with provincial and city governments. We need not feel entirely ashamed or alone. No country has done this in a way that consciously seeks out and sets priorities, and that rationalizes scarce national resources, as we hope to do. We hope to make the federal involvement in the cities no longer a series of unconnected initiatives but parts of a better understood urban whole. Inevitably, there are federal, provincial and municipal considerations to almost everything done in

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that light so that anything less than effective tri-level co-operation simply cannot work.

We will co-ordinate and integrate the federal urban role in various ways. For example, the minister of state in cabinet and cabinet committees, and in bilateral and inter-departmental arrangements, will be involved with his colleagues in urban overviews of the various plans of other federal departments and agencies. There will be a secretariat, headed by a person with the rank of deputy minister, that will fully review the federal efforts in urban affairs and through consultation and agreement will carry further through the government systems the work of rationalizing, co-ordinating and planning. This secretariat is being put together now, Mr. Speaker, as an important research, policy planning, consultative and co-ordinative instrument.

An initial research process has already produced important understandings for us, and a report of this will shortly be made available to hon. members and to others. Now, our efforts will be expanded to draw together the very scarce human resources in this field to plan and work out possible priorities and strategies. We will hope to attract the best minds now diffused through governments, industries and universities and to return them again to governments, universities and industry in a continuous and cross-fertilizing stream. I sincerely feel that this more rational approach between governments and within the federal government will serve to protect provincial jurisdiction, helping to forestall past experiences when unco-ordinated federal departmental programming inadvertently distorted provincial and municipal priorities. That often happened simply, though irritatingly, because the effect of one federal program on another or on a provincial initiative was not considered in an urban context.

In addition to an urban secretariat, of course, the ministry shall have reporting to it, and increasingly co-ordinated into a more total urban effort, the Crown agencies of the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the National Capital Commission. Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation's capital and expenditure budget is a potent force, and hon. members will know that I have switched its direction to the provision primarily of low income housing. Early this year, Mr. Speaker, as part of that low income housing program I earmarked \$200 million of CMHC's budget toward encouraging specifically innovative, experimental ways of providing good quality housing for people earning between about \$4,000 and \$6,000 a year. The \$200 million, and a little more, has been approved for 97 projects consisting of more than 17,000 dwelling units. They are projects involving novel techniques of construction, land use, financing, and they result from co-operation by CMHC, builders, non-profit groups, municipalities and several provincial governments. The results have been positive, Mr. Speaker, and give firm promise of developing even more and better cost-cutting, but not quality-cutting, methods to come. I intend to maintain next year specific federal incentives to further this search. I further intend to maintain the general emphasis of CHMC policy on homes for the low income group. This emphasis will