

### Urban Transportation

foresight and understanding of the basic problems which the hon. member for Ottawa East (Mr. Gauthier) was talking about and the interrelation of transportation systems in this country. As we know, there is the difficulty of co-ordination of various services and functions in an urban community.

Before dealing with the bill I wish to refer to a matter raised by the hon. member for Ottawa East. He referred to the position I took on an earlier occasion in this House with respect to dealing with the problems of co-ordinating policies of transportation between two municipalities in two provinces, and the federal government. If the hon. member reads carefully what I said during an adjournment debate a few evenings ago, he will see I said that in so far as the development is concerned on both sides of the river, it is a good thing in principle. However, I think the present situation is unfair, unreasonable and inequitable for people on both sides of the Ottawa River—which the hon. member and I know so well—who wish to develop together an area which requires this type of service and needs it, and who are prepared to accept the contribution offered by the government of Ontario, to have to wait for another jurisdiction to decide. I feel the government of Canada has waited too long since January 30 to accept the invitation of the government of Ontario to make a contribution to the development of the system.

● (1740)

I asked the question, on March 5, I believe it was, for one purpose, that is, to prod the government into establishing the trilevel conference which it announced it intended to establish to discuss this question vital to the national capital area. Out of all this it is my hope that the national capital area, which after all is the capital of this country—people are beginning to look upon this area as the capital—will be, with respect to transportation and every other municipal service, a model for the rest of the country. As the hon. member from the national capital said, I hope this will happen. I believe, and I say this with all the modesty I can muster, which is considerable, that as a result of this prodding the government has finally decided to move in the right direction.

Our problem in the national capital epitomizes the problem in the country generally under a federal system. The bill put forward by the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens) is an attempt to alleviate the difficulties of co-ordination. This country is not like other countries which have a single government. We are ten provinces and two territories which possess differing aspirations, differing requirements, differing needs to be satisfied in their urban areas. We have all seen the statistics projecting the growth of our urban areas. The bill before us focuses on the problems facing our cities. If the bill is adopted, governments at all levels will be obliged to co-ordinate their efforts to make urban living a more reasonable proposition.

I think the hon. member for Ottawa East missed the point of this bill. Its purpose is to improve co-ordination. I commend my hon. friend for proposing it, since it also provides within its framework an important avenue by means of which contributions can be made by localities affected by legislation passed in this chamber and elsewhere. I cannot imagine anyone responsible for decisions

[Mr. Baker.]

made in this chamber affecting Ottawa, Toronto or anywhere else to be reached in the absence of feedback from the communities directly concerned. Any machinery for improving lines of communication with the national government is important in this respect.

I note that the hon. member for Ottawa East dealt with the constitutional issues which are involved in this question. We have been faced with constitutional questions in Canada since 1867; they are part of our national life. But I put it to you, Mr. Speaker, that such constitutional difficulties are really challenges to governments. Parliaments and legislatures which continually cite the British North America Act as grounds for objection to reasonable action are invoking a principle which is less than relevant to the needs of Canadians today.

My constituents tell me they do not care about the British North America Act. They say they are interested in solving the problems of our urban communities, in putting an end to pollution whether of water, air or soil. Their environment is affected by these things and they want solutions. They say to parliaments, "Do not tell us about the British North America Act. Do not tell us what you cannot do. Tell us what you can do and what you intend to do." This bill focuses on the effort which ought to be made by the national government to deal with the question of co-ordination.

I believe the establishment of a national urban transportation authority could well lead the way to the development of new technology in Canada. The hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) touched on this point. We might well find the ground upon which we could develop a new industry right here in Canada, rather than import machinery and technology from elsewhere. This also applies to anti-pollution measures. The federal parliament and the provincial legislatures are concerned about pollution, yet we seem to import almost every device which is used in the fight for clean air and clean water. In this field, too, we have an opportunity to develop a completely new technology based in Canada.

I feel the spirit of this bill is a sound one. The establishment of an authority which would co-ordinate various urban projects would be valuable. Such an authority is needed in this country, and certainly it is needed in this community as the hon. member for Ottawa East should know. All of us acknowledge the necessity of provincial, municipal and federal governments getting together to deal with the challenges which face us. We are faced with the necessity of meshing older forms of transportation with present-day innovations such as the new STOL program which is possibly the forerunner of further experiments of this nature. There is need to collect and disseminate information on all such developments.

● (1750)

I think the difficulty that faces this government in many fields—I suppose the hon. member for Ottawa East, having sat in the caucus of the Liberal party, knows this better than anyone else—is that of co-ordination. On one hand the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) will upset the programs of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Jamieson); on the other hand the Bank of Canada will tighten the money supply while the Minister of