

The Address—Mr. Kaplan

conducted a search unsuccessfully. The helicopter has not been found despite search in the Northwest Territories within an area which is generally known and designated. In view of the imminence of the approach of winter at any time, which would make any further search impossible, will the minister give consideration to providing a couple of aircraft from his department to assist and co-operate with the RCAF in making an immediate search? The helicopter having not been found is an indication of the probability that this man is still alive.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I will certainly look into this immediately for the right hon. member. If there is anything more that we can do I can assure him that we will certainly do it.

● (3:00 p.m.)

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed, from Tuesday, October 20, consideration of the motion of Mr. Jacques-L. Trudel, for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Mr. Robert P. Kaplan (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was dealing with the proposal contained in the Speech from the Throne to create a minister of state for urban affairs and housing. I had suggested there was a great challenge to him to go beyond the hardware programs which have characterized the past activities of the federal government. As important as hardware is, and without a reduction in our commitment to housing, transportation and the quality of life, I think this government should commit itself to making Canada an urban nation and to giving all Canadians the opportunity to be urban people whether or not they live in the cities.

I speak of urban in the sense of being plugged into and aware of the broad range of opportunities which are available in the cities: opportunities to communicate, to learn and to grow up as people; opportunities to make choices of life styles and of association; the opportunity to have access to the greatest variety of experiences, goods and services, leisure activities and entertainment activities.

In our past concentration on putting new hardware in and around our cities we have ignored, or virtually ignored, the opportunities that have existed within the housing stock we have, within the given hardware, to enrich urban life by policies which encourage Canadians to define their interests, to recognize their power over events and to reach out more to each other. We would greatly benefit from such a focus. We have done our cities a disservice in ignoring the opportunities which have been there all along to make life richer. We have looked only at the problems rather than at the opportunities. For past governments, which have been oriented to move without policies from crisis to crisis, this attention

[Mr. Diefenbaker.]

only to problems is understandable. For a government which proposes to plan for the future and to enrich Canadian urban life, concentration on opportunities is vital.

Without meaning to be cynical, I would observe that there always have been and always will be problems in human society. But if a government never looks above them to the opportunities, these opportunities will disappear—because opportunities depend upon the good will of people, and human morale is a precious commodity which will weaken and disappear if it is frustrated for too long. We are in great danger today of having our morale as city dwellers disappear. If it does disappear, urban life will degenerate in Canada—as it has in some American cities—into a cluster of walled enclaves, each looking inward, sharing space but not communicating, interdependent but related symbiotically rather than through shared values and human contact.

There should be a software side to urban affairs in the new ministry. It should involve programs which bring people into contact with each other, which give meaningful access to the institutions which exist in society to serve them, to help them understand their environment and assert control over it. To live as an urban man should be to have basic information about the environment and the society, to be able to communicate and be involved, to be able to choose from a wide variety of life styles, of neighbourhoods, of human associations.

What I hope the government will do, through its assumption of responsibility for urban affairs, is seek methods of developing this kind of social integration. Let the federal role in our cities be information, research, provision of media for communication, the stimulation of volunteer associations with advice, expert services, the lending of facilities and even seed money, whether the association's goal is to bring a neighbourhood to life by providing information referral or whether the goal is cultural, social or even political. The great task of the government in establishing a ministry of state for urban affairs and housing is nothing less than taking the opportunity to bring Canadians together by social comforts and stimulation.

Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough): Mr. Speaker, I should like to begin, as is traditional and proper, by extending my congratulations to the mover and to the seconder of the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne. I listened to their remarks with interest and appreciation. I noticed that before he was too far along in his address, the seconder referred to the establishment of a distillery at Weyburn, Saskatchewan. I am tempted to say, after reading the hollow homilies of the Speech from the Throne, that if it would not lead people to drink it would lead them to think of drink. I shall resist that temptation and say I enjoyed his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, since I last participated in this exercise, which I think is a very important one in a representative Parliament—namely, a general debate—we have suffered a loss, which is particularly significant to me, in the death of my seatmate George Muir, a long-time friend