

*Suggested Lack of Urban Policy*

together—perhaps coincidentally or it may have been a cause and effect relationship. In any case, there are problems in our large cities today that cannot be solved as long as the present kind of cities exist.

We should take as an example and warning the development in the United States where the mayors of some cities are saying that their cities are becoming ungovernable. Some cities are automatically developing large slum areas. When a slum is cleared, the problem still is not solved. Crime, drug usage and other aberrations of human beings are rampant in the cities. We have the psychology of the mob, the minority trying to force its will on governments.

The modern unplanned city is not capable of providing a reasonable environment in which the good life can be achieved. Canadians should do some basic thinking about this problem. Our cities grow because, from a very limited circumscribed point of view, a company may find from its own limited interest that the best place to set up a factory is in the middle or on the outskirts of a large city. This is a primary job-creating enterprise. It produces a doubling effect because of the service industries and there is a great increase in the population dependant on that industry. While it may be the best thing for the balance sheet of a particular company, it does not follow that it is the best location to create new jobs from a social point of view as far as the country as a whole is concerned.

When building a plant, a company often ignores completely the infrastructure required for its future employees. There is no thought given as to where the employees are going to live, the rents they will pay, how they will get to work and back, who will build the roads or streets on which they will travel or who will pay for the schools, churches and other complexities of modern life which go automatically with the creation of a few hundred new jobs in a certain area. If this were taken into consideration, I would venture to say that in many cases where, from a limited point of view, places such as Montreal, or Toronto, or Vancouver might appear to be the best in which to build a new plant, in a wider perspective the plant should go to northern Ontario, the interior of British Columbia, or to one of the Atlantic provinces or to northern Quebec, and be located in a rural area or a small town. These are things which should be considered.

[Mr. MacLean.]

• (5:20 p.m.)

I have been concerned about this problem for some time. As a matter of fact, I put a resolution bearing on this subject down for consideration more than once. The resolution on the Order Paper at the present time will not come up for discussion this year, but it reads as follows:

That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should consider setting up, in co-operation with the provinces, an Institute of Human Environmental Studies to determine, among other matters (a) the degree of air, soil, water and noise pollution the human species can tolerate without serious effects on physical and mental health (b) the type of environment which stimulates the most desirable qualities of physical and mental health in the human species (c) the type of national development which would give satisfactory environment to the greatest number of Canadians and (d) the minimum of modifications to the present day indiscriminate and largely unplanned growth of our metropolitan areas necessary to put within reach of the inhabitants of these areas a quality of environment which would provide (i) adequate housing (ii) adequate recreational facilities, including parkland, and (iii) adequate social infrastructure, such as transportation, education, hospital and recreation facilities.

This, I believe, is where we ought to start, and it is the responsibility of the federal government, in my judgment, to begin the process. It could be argued in a legalistic sense that it was a responsibility of the provinces. But the whole situation has changed since the Fathers of Confederation approved the British North American Act a hundred years ago. It is unrealistic to expect the provinces to act first, because the province which did so might place itself in an uncompetitive economic position vis-à-vis some other province. Even less is a metropolitan or city government able to take action to meet the situation. Yet increasing numbers of Canadians, if present trends are permitted to continue unchecked, will be destined to live in unsatisfactory environments in huge metropolitan areas. While it is true this might provide a soft life many, it will not necessarily be the best life.

Indeed, we are not even in a position to judge what is the best life for ourselves, or what constitutes the good life. There are those who argue that the best place for a polar bear is in a zoo where it can eat three square meals a day, and so on, and, by extension, that people, like polar bears living in zoos, are best off when they live in large metropolitan areas. As a countryman, I do not accept this point of view. We, in Canada, are very far behind in the field of environmental studies. We are 50 years behind the United