

*Supply—Forestry and Rural Development*

live; they are living under reasonably good circumstances, with modern conveniences and all that sort of thing. This school teacher actually suggested: I suppose these children all look forward to the time when they will have the opportunity to get out of this dump. This was not said in school but in a private conversation, but to say this sort of thing to school children shows, in my opinion, a complete lack of understanding of our responsibilities.

I believe that something can be done to promote education in our primary and high schools on the importance of this question. Let us get our young people to focus their attention on this important area. Let us give them a purpose in this field. Let us give them an interest in it. They will then have an interest in the land, they will understand water conservation and forest conservation and will have an interest in wildlife. They will join rod and gun clubs. They will understand what recreation and park development are, and so on.

I believe we have overlooked the education of young Canadians in the value of the resources which are at our disposal. We have overlooked educating them as to the proper management of our natural resources in the years ahead. I also believe that greater use could be made of the newspapers and periodicals in this respect. We should seek the assistance of interested groups in our communities.

I suggest to the minister that if he finds there are groups that wish to hear about federal policy with respect to forestry or rural development his officials should whenever convenient have the opportunity to address these groups, whether they be of farmers or trade unionists. I have been very disappointed at the lack of attention paid to this important question by our trade unions. They have not been very concerned about the management of our natural resources. We have looked into the records of the trade unions in this regard. I think Dr. Forsey did this for me. I believe that over a period of 25 years there were only two resolutions passed with respect to the conservation of our resources.

The leaders of all groups have a responsibility in this regard. The trade union leaders must get their members interested in the subject. I have often said in my own district that this is not a matter just for chambers of commerce or farmers organizations to discuss; it is a matter for all organizations to

discuss, and to accept some personal responsibility in support of a positive and constructive program.

I wanted to say a word or two about the question of rural development, although the hon. member for Springfield will deal with the subject at greater length. It is one in which we have always been interested.

● (4:20 p.m.)

In this connection I want to quote from the *Christian Science Monitor* of October 3. The editorial is entitled "A halt to megalopolis" and it reads as follows:

One of the most discouraging brainwashings ever put across is the conclusion that everybody—or most everybody—must soon be living in cities.

People come to accept as "inevitable" what a passel of planners assumes is unavoidable. But the prospect that the United States, or almost any modern country must soon become solidly city-settled—a cement-bound metropolis, for instance, from Maine to the confederate capital of Richmond—doesn't have to materialize. Not if people don't want it to happen.

But it will take a lot of effort to reverse the tide—

Why then this "laissez faire demography," this unplanned population drift cityward? The prime cause is of course economic, and more the pinch of rural poverty than the publicized pull of city benefits—

Running a poor second as motivation is the argument that the cities provide better cultural and educational opportunities. But in a century when educational television can bring learning to any hut with a high-rise antenna, when rural shopping areas sprout up, when bookmobiles travel and good highways reduce the farm-to-town distances, the cultural lure of the city should lessen.

If the trend is to be reversed, the effort must begin at the rural end. There is need for welfare concepts that reach the hillside disadvantaged. For better rural schools. For rural industries. For more farm co-operatives—

I read that editorial because I think along those lines myself. It is not sufficient for the government or any organization to accept as inevitable the gradual drifting of populations into the large centres. I think we should have a policy related to this rural development program which indicates we are going to try to turn the tide. I believe we should decentralize the population and decentralize industry if people are to enjoy the sort of life they are entitled to in a country such as Canada.

These policies, whether forestry or rural development policies, must be developed in co-operation with the provincial government, the municipalities and the organizations I have mentioned. There is a lot to be done in this respect in the days ahead.