

The Address—Mr. Macaluso

"and have neglected taking the proper measures for the invitation of the Canadian provinces to fully respect the aims of the British North America Acts which clearly define the proper prerogatives belonging to all the legislatures of Canada and its provinces. And further, that they neglected, in this centennial year, to give the essential directives regarding Canada's constitutional development to ensure that the agricultural class receives all the attention necessary to maintain the constant economic growth in our country in such a manner as generous and patriotic as desired by the fathers of confederation.

Mr. Speaker, I have copies of the amendment in French and English. I do not want to teach someone a lesson, but I hope this sub-amendment will meet with your approval. I am sure every member will agree that this subamendment is called for and that it is imperative to draw the attention of the house to this situation and even to bring about an emergency debate on the farm problem across Canada.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: If there are some members of the house who would like to comment on whether or not this subamendment is in order I would be pleased to hear them now.

Mr. Côté (Longueuil): Mr. Speaker, I think we will leave it in your hands to decide whether or not the amendment is proper. I believe the rules have been strained quite a bit in order to bring about this amendment but we will leave the matter in your hands.

Mr. Knowles: Mr. Speaker, all I can say is that its ingenuity overwhelms me.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The question before the house, of course, is the amendment moved by the right hon. Leader of the Opposition. This amendment to the main motion deals with constitutional matters. The subamendment moved by the hon. member for Roberval deals essentially with constitutional matters. I recognize the ingenuity with which he has introduced another subject but in my view the other subject he has introduced is not the main part of the subamendment. In the opinion of the Chair, therefore, the subamendment is in order.

Mr. Joseph Macaluso (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, in the short time available to me before we adjourn for lunch I should like to offer my congratulations to the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I was very taken with the maiden speech of the hon. member for Burin-Burgeo (Mr. Jamieson). It was a credit

not only to himself but to the constituency he represents.

I intend to confine my remarks in this debate to the belated recognition by the federal government of the role it can play in urban matters. I was very happy to read the statements made by the government in the speech from the throne as well as the remarks made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) on May 10 with respect to providing a better urban environment for the citizens of this country. There was reference to the provision of open spaces and the calling of a federal-provincial inquiry. I intend to limit my remarks to what I believe are the urgent problems of the cities and some steps toward a solution of them.

In recent years Canadians have become aware of something fundamentally wrong with our urban areas. H. G. Wells saw the signs at the turn of the century when he said:

You will find that many people who once slept and worked and reared their children and worshipped and bought all in one area are now, as it were, delocalized; they have overflowed their containing locality and they live in one area, they work in another, and they go to shop in a third. And the only way in which you can localize them again is to expand your areas to their new scale.

Since world war II our prosperity, the increased birth rate, increased immigration and advancing technology have greatly accelerated the process of urban growth in this country. Urban expansion has resulted in a sprawling metropolitan region made possible by the private car, the extension of power and telephone connections, all-weather roads and the lowly septic tank. The symptoms of discomfort of this urban growth are known to all of us: the traffic congestion in the central parts of our cities caused by increased dependence on the private automobile for movement, the rapid decline in systems of mass transit, the shortage of downtown parking space, the strain on the water supply, the great expense of providing means of sewage disposal, the spectacle of an affluent society permitting suburban development without adequate parks or recreational space, the enormous increase in school costs; the deterioration of large industrial, commercial and residential areas in the central areas of cities and the decline of central business districts.

• (12:50 p.m.)

These are but a few of the irritations and problems of our metropolitan areas. The forces which have created the metropolitan explosion will not abate in the near future. We face a crisis of political and social reorganization. For Canada today is now an urban nation. In 1961, 70 per cent of the population