

*The Address—Mr. Davis*

the provinces, in respect to urban development. I believe that within this lengthy list of items of legislation we must establish certain priorities. Close to the top of the list I would put the problems faced by the developers of our large metropolitan areas, particularly the manner in which the development of future areas is planned and how it is to be paid for, so that we may have the best possible communities for the future.

• (5:10 p.m.)

In a vast country such as Canada, a country of great distances, with a limited population, we must put the accent on mobility and flexibility. Increasingly the emphasis is being placed on greater opportunities for individuals, and this is as it should be. We should observe the underlying, statistical trends which have been traced by the Economic Council and other learned bodies, societies and government agencies in this country. We must learn as much as we can about these trends, and endeavour to correct them as best we may.

The trend I first wish to describe is that which has gone on for half a century, away from the primary industries of this country—away from agriculture, fishing, forestry, the outlying areas, individual farms and woodlots, into cities and even into vast megalopolises, those clusters of big cities joining up one with the other.

There is a trend toward ever widening markets, toward more highly skilled jobs and greater specialization. This is coupled with the need to upgrade one's skills, to move from one occupation to another, perhaps several times during an individual's lifetime, or to move from one community to another, so as to improve the lot of individual Canadians.

In identifying the extent of the trend from the country to the city, or from the primary industries into other industries which exist in our big cities and towns, we see that at the turn of the century 50 per cent of the Canadian population was employed on farms, in fisheries, or in forestry, in the elementary sense of that word. By 1950 that figure had dropped from 50 per cent to 15 per cent. I am told that at present about 7 per cent of our labour force could efficiently produce all the food and primary forest products that Canada generates. The forecasts are that by the mid 1980's only about 5 per cent of Canada's population will work in the primary industries. In other words, during this century, terminating in the year 2000, we shall have

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moved from a situation where half our population lived in rural areas of the country to less than 5 per cent there.

Many who move into our big cities find work in factories. Others to an even greater extent move into our service industries, which become essential as our standard of life rises. Most are moving into a few large cities. Recently I read a report showing the extent of this trend. I learned, surprisingly enough, that during the last five years only the Montreal area in Quebec had increased in population. The rest of the province had remained static in population terms. I also read that in southern Ontario young people are moving in great numbers from rural communities, from small and medium sized towns, to large cities. Only in large cities is the population in the 20 to 30 year old bracket increasing rapidly, and this is an indication of things to come, which further underlines the trend to the big cities of the future.

I contend that if we devote a great deal of energy, time and money to rehabilitating our outlying areas where a declining number of Canadians earn their living, we ought also to devote more effort to improving the lot of those living in our major metropolitan areas. In the minds of some people the federal government has taken over too many matters of provincial jurisdiction. True, ARDA, which has been on the statute books since 1961, has been improved and modified. But it has brought to our rural problems the expertise of various departments of government—departments such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, transportation, industry, public works, manpower and immigration, and finance—and that expertise has been brought to bear on areas of declining employment and chronically low income. Those departments, with their task forces working in concert, with provincial departments, are doing excellent work in telling people locally in rural areas what the opportunities are, where employment exists, and where they may obtain higher incomes for themselves and their children.

In the main this has meant to many people in rural areas a continuing improvement in their standard of living. We need a similar, comprehensive approach to our urban areas. Latterly we have created a department of rural affairs which is responsible for ARDA. We need a similar federal department to concentrate its attention on the majority of the Canadian population, those living in our fast growing, vital metropolitan areas. We need a department of urban development.