

*Housing and Urban Renewal*

would be able to pay for the renewal schemes that are on the boards. He also said he had great sympathy with the cities which had thought the money would be available. This is the point, Mr. Speaker. It is the fault of this government rather than the cities with respect to their plans for urban renewal.

The minister indicated there would be \$25 million per year available between 1970 and 1974. This is an illogical statement, Mr. Speaker, when we think of all the money that has been spent—\$125 million wiped out with respect to Expo, the cost of the art centre jumping from \$9 million to \$46 million and on the CBC, which is questionable in many respects, some \$200 million. In addition, recently the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux) approved construction of a \$28 million departmental building. If we are talking in terms of money, Mr. Speaker, where is the rationale with respect to the minister's statement?

The city of Hamilton—and when I say this I speak on behalf of all cities—is looking for leadership and guidance in this area. They are going to be very disappointed and dismayed. The minister mentioned money in his statement. We do not know yet how much money will be available for each city. I know the city of Hamilton was supposed to receive a \$5 million federal contribution and only received approximately \$2 million. Is the minister, through this program, going to give the city of Hamilton another \$2½ million?

I am pleased the minister mentioned public housing. The Hon. Stanley J. Randall, speaking on behalf of Ontario, and I am sure this applies to other provinces as well, stated:

To date, the federal guidelines on public housing have not been established and this is making itself felt in large areas like metropolitan Toronto where uncertainty over size and design is affecting planning for further projects.

The Canadian Welfare Council has stated that we require 30,000 public housing units per year. I wonder how much of the government's program for one million units is going to be geared to actual public housing? I do not have the figures for 1969 but in 1968 there were only 13,527 such units constructed.

In conclusion I wish to say I am ashamed that the minister has not brought out his guidelines on public housing. As a matter of fact, he has not brought out guidelines on anything.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

21545—63½

**Mr. Alexander:** The minister indicated he would give us guidelines for urban renewal and public housing. In the long run, he has not given us any guidelines at all. All he has given us is the same story that he has been telling for some time. I wonder whether the minister cannot make a statement on guidelines for urban renewal because this government is studying the constitutional problems as they affect the cities. I understand there is a problem among the government frontbenchers as to what role the federal government will play. Perhaps we will have to wait until the government makes up its mind as to the role it can play in solving urban problems before it definitely decides what it is going to do with respect to urban renewal.

• (2:30 p.m.)

**Mr. John Gilbert (Broadview):** Mr. Speaker, after hearing the statement by the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Andras), is it any wonder the former minister in charge of housing, the hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Hellyer), resigned? I should like to preface my remarks by saying that the minister now in charge of housing is a very able, sincere and concerned person. He possessed these qualities when he was involved in Indian affairs but when he began to demand action to bring about a better deal for the Indians he was quickly shunted out because his ideas were not those of the government.

We now find him in exactly the same position with regard to housing. His ideas are not those of the government or, especially, of the Prime Minister who does not believe in active federal participation in housing. This is why the minister had to content himself with such statements as "we must await a better defined long term Canadian urban renewal policy", and that he is deeply impressed by the complexity of the problem. Mr. Speaker, the failure to produce urban renewal policies can be placed squarely on the present government for its lack of leadership and initiative in this field.

Between 1946 and 1969 hon. gentlemen opposite have spent a mere \$186 million on urban renewal and have erected a Berlin wall of obstruction and frustration in the way of its success. In 1964, when the amendments to the National Housing Act with respect to the financing of urban renewal were passed, they were put into effect in three stages. Assistance was promised in the financing of studies undertaken by municipalities in the area of urban renewal schemes.