

Urban Affairs

solve the supply problem the minister must make sure that the municipalities of Canada have the funds necessary to provide sewer and water systems and roads now.

● (2130)

The government of Canada should make more money available now to the municipalities in order that they can meet their financial requirements. The government of Canada should consider the possibility of writing off part of their costs. If on the other hand they find that the municipalities are still strapped, they should consider writing off the total cost until the situation is under control and until the price rise has stopped and the people of Canada have an opportunity to live, breathe, be decently housed and look after themselves and their families.

Where would the money come from? Some could come from unemployment insurance or from the LIP program or the Opportunities for Youth program. Surely some of these people are capable of participating in the manufacture of concrete pipe. Surely some of them have the capability to drive a bulldozer or a truck. Surely some of these people are capable of operating backhoes. Surely some of these people are not only capable but would welcome the opportunity to use their creative talents for something worth while in this country.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Hellyer: There are many places the money could be found if the government only had the will to get on with the job.

Mr. Stanfield: Productive expenditure: they do not understand that.

Mr. Hellyer: Some municipalities need help in respect of their transportation systems. Certainly research is necessary. I am one of the first to say that research should be done in the field of public works. but much can be done without any great new breakthroughs in technology. Toronto must have an extension of its public transportation system out into the open land as a way of solving the housing problem. Some would say the same thing about Vancouver if it had a public transportation system.

Perhaps the minister should start working right away to see what can be done about meeting the need to provide the funds for necessary transportation systems. Many things could be done. The minister should talk the government into adopting the incomes policy recommended by the Conservative Party. There is no way interest rates will come down until inflation is brought under control. There is no way inflation will be brought under control so long as the minister goes along with his *laissez-faire*, status quo type of policy which has been proven not to work. Consequently, the accent in respect of housing and urban development should be by putting pressure on his colleagues to adopt the Conservative policy in so far as incomes are concerned to bring inflation under control and to bring interest rates down.

The minister should use some of his persuasive powers to get the provinces to adopt a standard building code. He could persuade the Minister of Finance (Mr. Turner) to reconsider his intransigent attitude in respect of the 11 per

[Mr. Hellyer.]

cent tax on building materials. He could persuade the government once again to establish a program—not just talk about it—to finance urban transportation systems. There are many things the minister could do, but he seems incapable of learning.

Recently, for example, we drew to the attention of the minister the problem in respect of the co-operative colleges in Toronto and some of the things that went wrong there. We understand that the minister had a secret report prepared which he refuses to let us look at. We also understand that some charges will be laid in that regard. Now we see another example of co-operative housing which is not really co-operative housing because it does not involve any participation by individuals in a real, tangible way. It involves no sweat labour as was the case in those noble Nova Scotia experiments. Consequently, it is another case of middle-class rip-off by individuals who take no risk and enjoy playing with other people's money.

We are adopting projects in Toronto described as co-operative housing which in fact represent high-cost housing. The rents will be higher than the market cost, in spite of the many subsidies. All that is happening is that the minister is fooling the people with these programs and the notion that non-profit housing can be equated with low cost housing, which it cannot. It would be far better if the minister would take 80 per cent of this money right away and put it into the things necessary to get the situation under control, namely, the sewer, water, road and other facilities across the country necessary to increase the supply of serviced land and get the cost of housing down so that Canadians once again will have a chance to look after their own needs.

The minister complains about the market not providing houses except for middle-class people, the middle area. Well, this has a certain ring of truth to it because of the impediments put in the way of industry by various levels of government. The minister should spend his time removing the impediments instead of trying to hoodwink the people into believing he is doing something. The minister should be tackling the real problem before him. This \$100 million program is nothing more than another attempt to hoodwink the people. It is diversionary action. The minister has funds available to him; they have been in his budget all along. This \$100 million has more the flavour of an election fund in the sense that some monuments which will be built will do more to facilitate his re-election than to solve the housing problems. It makes a farce of the Election Expenses Act. The minister should get on with the important task. Better still, the House should demonstrate its lack of confidence in this government so the people can elect a government that will take action.

● (2140)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Henry Latulippe (Compton): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to say a few words on the motion before us. Mr. Speaker, this motion asks that the House repudiate, and I quote:

... the \$100 million Urban Demonstration Program as a diversionary tactic and clearly ineffective to assist in solving the existing housing crisis and accordingly has no confidence in the government.