AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Roy (Laval): Mr. Speaker, at the time of adjournment, I was making remarks on the unfortunate situation now existing in Quebec. Our civil liberties are threatened and our people are worried.

Democracy is like one's health: we appreciate it when we lose it, either because we abuse of our liberties, or because abusive force or violence are used.

The governments acted conscientiously in taking steps to protect the collective interests of the nation. Had they not done so, the people would condemn them. We are living most tragic hours, for the survival of our basic principles and respect for the individual are threatened. Let us avoid irresponsible comments: let us place the problem in its true context and let the powers that be take the initiative of making statements.

We will fail in our attempt to transform society if we surrender to our fears, or nurse feelings of hate against certain ethnical groups. The only way to cure our society is to forge ahead determinedly, with the co-operation of all those who are prepared to take their responsibilities in order to find the causes of the present unrest. The sick society cannot be cured by the sole intervention of its governments. On the contrary, it is the business of everyone who has a craving for truth and justice. It is appropriate that everyone examines his conscience in the tragic hours we are experiencing at this time.

Let us be conscious of our role, of our capacity and of our will to contribute to air a little every day the lungs of that society which certain elements wish to suffocate. To that end, it is necessary to establish clear goals. During the first session of this 28th Parliament, the House of Commons considered more than 101 pieces of legislation. Last year, 90 other measures were submitted to our study. During this session, 68 bills will be examined.

It is necessary to stir up the imagination of men by presenting them with various pieces of legislation in the form of a White Paper in order that they contribute to draft laws which will really reflect their aspirations. Such a dialogue with the population is likely to crystalize their thoughts into laws.

Is that not what we have done here in order to bear out the extent to which the population is anxious to participate in federal legislation?

Following the press release that the chairman of the Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, the hon. member for Gatineau (Mr. Clermont), published on December 19 last, in which briefs from the public were invited, the said committee received 524 briefs, as well as 1,093 letters and other documents.

While studying the tax reform proposals, the committee met 146 times and looked into 211 briefs provided by 820 people. Such evidence, I believe, shows to what extent our people wished to participate in the legislation.

Is this not the job that we are pursuing under the leadership of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau)?

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a government member, to belong to the great Liberal family, which is getting larger every day, which is respectful of human rights and is equal to its task in any situation. I am proud to belong to the dynamic group now administering the country and whose aim, over the next decade is to make our society more humane.

On reading the Speech from the Throne and the speeches of the mover and the seconder of the Address in reply, one notes that the government wishes to take part in the development of our cities through the construction of low-rental housing, the renewal of urban centres, the construction of homes for the aged, and the enactment of legislation to protect consumers.

Hardship, discrimination and social disintegration work havoc to a greater extent in urban centres. There, because of its size and complex and heartless society sometimes engenders the most deplorable situations.

We are aware of this situation and we wish to do something about it. I do not know whether the member for Spadina (Mr. Ryan) had read the Speech from the Throne. He would have noticed that, to foster coordination of the activities of all levels of government, and to contribute to sound urban growth and development, the Government proposes the re-organization of its urban activities under the direction of a Minister of State for Urban Affairs and Housing. The Government seeks, by making rational its efforts in these fields, and through consultation with those most directly concerned, to help Canadians reach and implement the decisions that will determine their urban future.

The right hon. Prime Minister stated in this House, on Friday October 9, as recorded on page 36 of *Hansard*:

> Let me say as well that it is false to sugest that the federal government has not been active and welcome in the cities of this country for many years. More than 20 departments of the federal government are now present and engaged in the cities. And some of them are very active. In the field of low income housing, for example, 44 per cent of all the activity undertaken in Canada since 1950 has been achieved in the past two years.

In the name of my constituents, I wish to thank and congratulate the Minister responsible for housing (Mr. Andras). Last year, $200 million were invested in Canada for the construction of low-rent housing. In the city of Laval, 1,000 new units will be built thanks to a $12 million federal loan granted under the National Housing Act. This injection of economic blood by the federal government represented a new start for construction in Laval.

Moreover, the federal government has guaranteed a loan representing 95 per cent of the building cost of the Centre de séjour Laval where 350 people will live. The centre will be erected in Sainte-Dorothée.

Under the adult professional training program, the federal government has contributed $362,907,385 to the province of Quebec out of total investments in Quebec, of $654,386,037 as of April 1, 1969.