

migration from country to city was slow but steady. The 1941 census showed, for the first time, less than half our population living on farms or in villages of 1,000 or less. Today it is less than one-quarter.

Furthermore, it is our largest cities in which the rate of population growth is most rapid. Various projections suggest that Toronto and Montreal will both have populations in the range of roughly five to six-and-a-half million people by the year 2001. And, in the case of Toronto, such growth would almost inevitably result in that metropolitan area's running into nearby urban areas, creating a situation not unlike that in parts of your country, where one city is more or less continuous with others, with little or no space in between.

While our largest cities are not quite in a class with the largest U.S. cities, and even our most overburdened city fathers do not yet face the magnitude of the problems of those responsible for municipal government in New York, Chicago, or Los Angeles, our lists of urban problems are not dissimilar. You know the issues better than I: The quality and quantity of housing, particularly for low-income families; provision of primary and secondary education of a reasonable quality and with due regard for equality of opportunity from district to district; adequate police and fire services; water supply; sewage treatment; street construction and maintenance, which can be particularly difficult in our northern climate; urban transit; recreation; garbage disposal; land-use planning in the teeth of conflicting demands for industrial and commercial growth, on the one hand, and preservation of environmental values, on the other, and so on. And, beyond these essentially physical and more traditional problems, there is the still more difficult issue that has come more and more to the fore in recent decades -- the grave concern about loss of individual identity and lack of participation by the citizens of "Megalopolis", to which is attributed not a small part of the social unrest and assault on established institutions which so frequently make today's headlines.

For the smaller urban municipalities, and the rural municipalities, the "mix" of problems may be somewhat different, and perhaps less complex. The circumstances, and the problems, of these smaller municipalities are not changing nearly as rapidly as those in the large urban areas. Local governments dealing with them have had the opportunity, over time, to get used to them and to understand the dimensions of the issues. But in the megalopolises which have been grown in our lifetime, the problems are on a genuinely new scale. For us, in Canada, they are just beginning to assume the proportions which they have had in the U.S. for the past 20 to 30 years. And so we learn, or try to, from your successes and failures.

In the long run, some limitation may have to be put on the size of our metropolitan areas. That, in itself, will present a very new and different problem in a society where freedom of movement is accepted as an important individual right -- a right that has been exercised mainly in favour of movement to where the action is -- the big cities. At present, Canada's Federal Government is trying to influence the growth in large cities much less directly. Special programs have been designed to encourage economic growth in the poorer