

*Federal Co-operation in Urban Problems*

underground services and such things which are a requirement in any new development. In fact, they are necessary and should be provided as we go along so that we do not face the same problems as were faced 30 or 40 years ago. But, Mr. Speaker, it does not matter how it is done, it is always the same taxpayer who pays the bill—the fellow who purchases the house or rents it. He has to pay for all the services, the schools and parks, whatever is provided. I agree with many things that have been said, and possibly lower rates of interest should be considered. One thing that should be considered once and for all is the elimination of school taxes, at least in my province. This would be a great change and would certainly help newcomers who are just going into housing and senior citizens who are moving into senior citizens' homes. The latter should not be paying the heavy cost of development and should get some relief from taxes.

Referring to an intergovernmental council on community development, the brief continues:

Under conditions of increasing insecurity for the citizen, and in the face of threats of environmental deterioration, it is the local officials who feel the first impact of public concern. Mayors and councillors, being of the level of government closest to the people, are very often blamed and held responsible for programs and policies, or lack of them that originate at the federal and/or provincial levels. Many Canadian citizens claim they are the victims of economic dislocation, technological change and the kind of misallocation of resources that gravely threaten their standards of living. Local government has no choice but to demand a co-ordination of the efforts of all levels of government toward the attainment of economic growth and improvement in human well-being.

This is what the federation had to say last year. They also made some recommendations which I think are important, as set out at pages 4 and 5 of the brief as follows:

1. "areas requiring special measures" be redefined to rid us of the anomaly of the ineligibility of urban slums for federal-provincial financial assistance by virtue of their proximity to affluent suburbs. The principle of equalization which is the keynote of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion reflects the true character of Canada but its application leaves much to be desired. The deprived in Victoria suffer as much hardship as those in Halifax.

2. the current freeze on urban renewal funds be lifted immediately for programs of neighbourhood improvement—

3. the federal government pursue its objectives of creating a ministry of state responsible for urban affairs—

The brief continues:

We are also concerned with the apparent intent to exclude non-urban communities from the anticipated trilevel consultations.

The concluding paragraph in that section reads:

For these reasons we endorse the proposal for a trilevel forum—an intergovernmental council on community development—to provide for the free exchange of views by federal, provincial and local policy makers; a forum that would enable all governments to clarify their roles in providing leadership, direction and action in response to the real need of our citizens.

I think this spells out what local governments all across the country are concerned with, and I think they know the problems better than anybody else. They have often made good representations which possibly have been overlooked at times. When they make their recommendations at the end of this month, I hope due consideration will be given to them.

**Mr. Stanfield:** Hear, hear!

[Mr. Guay (St. Boniface).]

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** I am sure this will be the case, because last fall the then minister of urban affairs said, as reported in the *Globe and Mail* of October 21:

The federal government is willing to reduce its powers in the field of urban development, if that reduction leads to federal-provincial co-operation—

That is what the Leader of the Opposition was talking about this afternoon.

—in the redevelopment of Canadian cities, urban affairs minister Robert Andras said in Montreal yesterday. He said in a luncheon address to the Canadian Real Estate Association annual convention that in effect this was what the federal government was doing in seeking new methods of working with the provinces.

"For reasonable men, the answer (to urban problems) must lie . . . through consultation, the sharing of knowledge, and the commitment to seek new mechanisms of collaboration.

And in this sense, by putting its urban policies and programs on the table for discussion, the federal government is, if anything, permitting a lessening of its powers rather than the reverse: seeking to intrude into an area of provincial jurisdiction."

He went on to make several comments along the lines on which I have been speaking tonight. I hope that the Federation of Mayors and Municipalities will continue to apply pressure when they present their briefs because I think we could benefit from many of their recommendations.

When the hon. member for Scarborough West (Mr. Weatherhead) spoke a short while ago he said, among other things, that consideration should be given to building a dome stadium in his area. I did not think I would be standing up tonight and saying that since the government is to build a second, multimillion dollar airport in the Toronto area, why does it not build a domed stadium for mine. Surely to goodness western Canada needs one or two facilities like that, Mr. Speaker.

• (2130)

**Mr. Stanfield:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** I should like nothing better than to see a domed stadium built in Winnipeg so that we could see all sorts of finals and football games in our area without being snowed out or rained under.

**An hon. Member:** What about Vancouver?

**Mr. Guay (St. Boniface):** An hon. member mentioned Vancouver. I thought we might begin where the west begins and go on from there. They did that with the railroad, by the way. Seriously, Mr. Speaker, I think a domed stadium should be considered for that area. Many other facilities might be considered. The point is that as was spelled out this afternoon the area municipality, in co-operation with other levels of governments, might solve some of the problems affecting the area. No matter whether proposed projects involve slum clearance, urban renewal, new development—call them what you will—all the citizens of the area and of the country will benefit if money is spent in that way. I think there is no better way of spending money than on programs which municipal governments at present most earnestly need. Those programs can be carried out in co-operation with provincial governments. If the minister—who is here—takes my representations into consideration as well as the represen-