

metropolitan structure in some areas at least can even meet the existing pressure, let alone make any noticeable inroads in the backlog of problems confronting it.

This report goes on to state that even in cities where the powers and problems of urbanization are less there is an urgent need for quick, decisive and imaginative action. These quotations, Mr. Speaker, are from the report of the Task Force on Housing and Urban Development, led by the hon. member for Trinity (Mr. Hellyer). In light of this government's indifference to the cities, it is no wonder he felt impelled to resign.

● (5:10 p.m.)

The paradox of modern living in our cities is that while the consumer's money income seems to go up, and sometimes even his standard of living, although that is difficult these days with the inflation the government encourages, the opportunities to enjoy many important features of the good life which we associate with the cities are rapidly disappearing. We know that this government is obsessed with abstract constitutional theorizing, that it cares more about what it can write into dusty legal documents than about the kind of lives real people live. But is it totally unconcerned about the quality of life our people are able to enjoy? It would seem so.

The quality of life in our urban centres depends on many things, but not least on the following in addition to matters economic: housing and slum clearance, safety of the individual in his person and property, attractiveness of the city environment, and the basic hospitality of the neighbourhood. The government can and should be doing something about all of these matters. Let me say something briefly about each.

Let us first take housing and construction. Some time soon the minister responsible may be thawing out the slum deep freeze the government has imposed. But when he does eventually announce approval of urban renewal projects he had better make good and sure he does not discriminate against this country's growth centres again. The blows which the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) aimed at the urban centres of my own province and those of British Columbia and Ontario are splendid examples of the government's completely negative approach toward the west and toward the problems of the cities. Urban unconcern of this order is a hallmark of the present administration, and it is time it stopped.

Alleged Failure to Cope With Urban Growth

In respect of safety of the individual, we are lucky in this country that organized crime has not really developed very much yet. That only means the government has an opportunity, not a guarantee. Strong and imaginative action by the Minister of Justice (Mr. Turner) could do much to inspire the forces of law and order in this country to save our expanding, crowded urban centres from the metropolitan criminal horrors endured by our friends to the south. Will there be leadership and imaginative help by the R.C.M.P.? Will the police forces get the assistance they need from the federal government?

Let me refer to a clean environment. We have already belaboured the house with our serious concern about the cleanliness and attractiveness of the environment. I can only repeat my colleagues' remarks of a previous day to emphasize the necessity of the government taking very firm steps and of exerting significant leadership to end the growing pollution of our cities and countryside.

The next subject is hospitality. I prefer the word hospitality but its opposite, the one this government prefers, is alienation. As our urban areas continue to grow, so too does the problem of alienation. Purely and simply this means that too many of our people are becoming detached and uncaring about one another. The problem is a very serious social phenomenon about which action is required.

What can the federal government do? It can help our people take pride in their communities and particularly in their country. This is especially the case with regard to new immigrants to our country, and even with some established members of the non-British and non-French groups. The problem of alienation confronts these people far more than any other. Many immigrants speak neither English nor French. Unable to communicate with others they feel lonely and afraid.

The number of immigrants has increased by nearly 40 per cent since 1961, some 184,000 people last year alone. These people are flooding into our cities and the federal government must go all out to welcome them, to help them identify, to encourage them to take out citizenship with meaningful, heart-stretching steps—in short, to make them feel like real Canadians. The so-called citizenship part of our immigration program is woefully lagging in imagination, in national pride and in human concern.

I have taken enough time. I have not dealt with the necessity of federal development of