

*Government Organization*

Minister himself, it will be really possible to give that vocation to each department. That desire to eliminate the serious problem of poverty seems to be shown by the representatives of the people and the individuals in general.

The minister also indicated his intention to bring about a greater co-operation with the provinces. It is really necessary that at the level of every province, there should also be a department of regional development. And here again the minister of that department will have to have, as far as possible, a great deal of authority in order to ensure the co-ordination of efforts.

As to ourselves, from the province of Quebec, we can raise questions about the nature of that co-operation. The most autonomist of Quebecers will agree that regional planning cannot be successful unless there is a co-ordination of efforts between the federal and provincial governments.

One should not try, through those agreements necessary to carry out those objectives, to remake the whole constitution. If all those who live in underdeveloped areas were asked about the necessity of co-ordination and co-operation between the federal and provincial authorities, 99 per cent would urge the governments to refrain from trying indirectly to remake the constitution at the expense of the poor people of underdeveloped areas, when such co-ordination is so greatly needed in order to finally bring about programs designed to alleviate the distress which prevails in the underdeveloped areas and to restore confidence in the future among the elite and all those who fight for the common good in those areas.

We should also secure co-operation between areas, for we are growing every day more aware of the impossibility of pulling those people out of their misery unless they contribute to their own development and share in the making of the decisions which will bring about their social and economic freedom. There are three ways of securing this participation.

We should first of all set up projects. If the areas concerned reject them we may as well give up for it is impossible to achieve true development without the participation of those concerned, in the present case, the depressed areas and the very poor.

The second answer would be to have the citizens of those areas entrust their land to experts.

[Mr. Gendron.]

There is no point in trying to carry out projects, willy nilly, in an area. The sole result would be to breed feelings of frustration and futile hopes.

There is but one answer. Have the people of the area take a strong hand in their own surroundings with the help of planners, of specialists from the higher authorities.

The planners—a new breed of experts born from this theory of land planning—will have to sit around a table with the people and discuss their future with them. Father Lebret, a pioneer in this field, said we need to tackle with a humble heart the problems of the underdeveloped areas. He added:

For we have much more to learn from them than they have from us.

Planners in some way will be the architects called upon to build according to the wishes of the depressed areas, and also—and this follows—according to professional rules, the regional dwellings which the people want to suit their taste, their needs and their future plans.

In order to do that, intensive periods of information, will have to be organized as well as authentic consultations at every level and a regional framework will have to be set up in order to make a true dialogue possible in an unqualified democracy.

I can see the problem which we will have to face at the regional level: Are we going to create bodies of technocrats called upon to establish professional development rules or are we going to revitalize our municipalities which are the government level closest to the people, the third level which necessarily has to adapt its structures to twentieth century conditions, enjoy a certain authority so as to look after the planning of their territory? At the present time, on the contrary, our cities have no authority outside their territory, and yet their influence extends way beyond that. Therefore, their action or inaction has a considerable impact on the territory although they have nothing to say when regional decisions are made.

There are also county councils which have practically no authority left and which cannot really play the part of competent agents in the planning and development of an area.

Such organizations must be modernized so that the city may be represented within these same county councils and so that the jurisdiction of the latter may be extended to cover a whole region. It is very difficult, I admit, to define a region. We could perhaps say that it is an area within the limits of which a feeling