

*Supplementary Estimates*

same benefits to that area that will be extended to other specially designated areas in Canada.

In that same area there is a great deal of economic and social unrest as well as uncertainty, brought about by the government's resettlement program. I have said before in this House and in committee, and I will keep saying that there has been a grave injustice done to the people who were encouraged and in some cases forced to vacate their former homes and properties to move to the so-called resettlement areas. These people were enticed to move by the government. They were helped financially to a certain extent to help defray the cost of moving and to resettle. They were then completely forgotten.

These people were treated like checkers on a board, like pieces of machinery, like little red pins on a map. They were taken away from the place their families had been for generations, in most cases in areas where they could earn a decent living for themselves and their families. In some cases, they were forced to move to the so-called growth areas. They now find they are completely incapable of carrying on their vocation of fishing. They have been almost forced to become welfare addicts. I believe this is a serious injustice.

I hope this government will recognize its responsibility and pay special attention to the people concerned. The government should help them to rehabilitate themselves in their new environment. These people should be given a chance to restore their independence. Like most Canadians, they want to be able to stand tall, walk straight and earn a decent living for themselves and their families. I have spent hours talking about this, written hundreds of letters and have made many speeches on the subject. Much to my regret and the regret of the people concerned, the government so far has elected to turn a deaf ear to the problem. Special attention should be given to these areas by the Department of Regional Economic Expansion in view of the fact their way of life was destroyed by the government and they are now unable to help themselves. As I said a moment ago, they are unable to earn a living for themselves and their families.

● (5:20 p.m.)

There are a number of other matters which affect my area, one of which is housing. I was very interested in the question asked today by the hon. member for Prince Edward-Hastings (Mr. Hees). He challenged the Prime

Minister to pay some attention and visit the slums of Canada in the same way which he did in the Arctic. As the hon. member mentioned later, this is not a popular suggestion because slums do not make good pictures. I would also challenge the Prime Minister and the minister responsible for housing to go into parts of my riding where people are living under conditions which are altogether sub-standard, and should not be tolerated by anyone in 1970. The government does not seem to appreciate the need for decent housing which exists among Canadians. Hon. gentlemen opposite are making a lot of noise about urban renewal schemes and subsidized housing, but not enough is being done in an area which should obviously be given priority. I urge the government to step up its programs in this field. There is great need for urban renewal in Canada. There is great need for extensive studies to ascertain the fact of bad housing conditions, with their attendant inconvenience and squalor, and the effect it is having upon our young people who will be governing Canada tomorrow. Again, I urge the government to intensify its program to enable those now experiencing wretched-sub-standard housing conditions to enjoy some of the amenities that are being taken for granted by most Canadians.

**Mr. Gordon Ritchie (Dauphin):** On rising to speak on this bill, may I say that I intend to confine my comments to the subject of the Lift program announced by the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. I do not know how well this program has been named; I strongly suspect there is not much lift attached to this program and that it may never get off the ground. In some respects this is a pity, because it might have been a useful program. But it was ill-conceived and ill-considered; the most charitable thing one could say about it, I suppose, is that it was introduced in too great a hurry.

During his budget speech the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) told us that it would be necessary to introduce supplementary estimates providing \$100 million for prairie farmers. The Lift program will certainly not need all that money. Upwards of half of it will be saved, unless all the reports I have received are misleading. I say from personal knowledge, and as a result of discussions with farmers and with hon. members of this House who come from agricultural areas, that it will be virtually impossible for farmers to follow this plan in its entirety.