

bilingualism by legislation in order to give every young Canadian the opportunity of being educated in the two official languages of Canada.

By taking up such a legislative program in educational matters the Canadian provinces would at the same time ensure national unity in Canada while building up for the young generations a more rosy future in this world whose remotest regions are becoming closer every day because of the speedy development of instantaneous communications everywhere.

Like Senator Robichaud, I have faith in the proverbial good sense of my fellow citizens in Quebec to avoid the unilingualism reef and this faith is strengthened, as he said, by the poise shown by the Quebec government in the consideration of such an important question.

Senator Perrault has succeeded in putting the emphasis on the pragmatism of which the Speech from the Throne is imbued, and more especially on what some English commentators referred to as the "bread and butter issues".

● (1410)
[English]

Among the many measures proposed in the Speech from the Throne, I should like to elaborate on the subjects of urban development, housing, science policy and oil policy.

The Ministry of State for Urban Affairs was created, as we all know, to respond to Canada's increasing urbanization and to resolve resulting problems. The tri-level conference, held in Toronto on October 21 and 22, 1972, marked the first national meeting of the three levels of government to focus on consultation and co-ordination of activities to respond to the urban challenge. Senator Carl Goldenberg was asked to preside at that conference, which was, to my mind, a splendid recognition of the Senate and of our distinguished colleague Senator Goldenberg.

The second tri-level conference, held in Edmonton last October, reached a consensus on the need for managing more effectively the unbalanced urban growth. This consensus involves a national approach and one which recognizes the specific regional elements of regional growth. The federal government is committed to this two-phase, integrated approach to managing urban growth—nationally and regionally—and is prepared to work closely with the provinces in this respect.

This tri-level approach does not overlook the fact that the municipalities are, under the Constitution, the creatures of the provinces. The government has agreed, within this limitation, to the tri-level approach. This decision of the government calls for priority federal urban goals, with two phases:

First, to achieve a more balanced pattern of cities and towns throughout Canada, with increased emphasis on support for improving small and medium-sized communities; and for new communities where needed.

Second, to improve the physical and social environment of the larger urban centres, particularly the core areas, or the inner city.

That decision means that federal policies and programs will be massively redirected and reshaped over the coming years to make them more responsive to the needs of an urban nation. The Throne Speech gives a good indication of this emphasis. It means that the federal government's views on urbanization are in the broadest possible terms—

[Hon. Mr. Langlois.]

not solely in terms of Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver, but in terms, as well, of smaller communities and their place in the Canadian economy.

This reshaping of policies and programs will affect not just the policy development activities of the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs or the programs of Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation but the redirection of policies and programs of many departments.

It means that increasingly the federal government will join with the provinces and their municipalities to effect beneficial changes in the evolving urban future.

The proposed measure is intended to apply to cities where obsolete or under-used railway facilities—tracks, yards, terminals and other properties—are formidable obstacles to planned and orderly urban development.

The provisions in the draft railway relocation legislation are intended to modify the flow of traffic on lines in cities, or to relocate lines entirely, in accordance with urban plans formulated by the provinces and their municipalities.

Where a rail line is relocated, the property thus vacated may be put to any number of uses. This could include the provision of improved and expanded rapid transit facilities. Railway rights of way will, in many cases, provide excellent corridors for rapid public transit systems.

Honourable senators, I now turn to the question of housing. The Speech from the Throne also mentions the government's housing objectives. The year 1973 was a record year for house construction—more than 268,000 units were started.

Before the end of March, somewhere in Canada workmen will begin laying the foundation for the one-millionth housing unit to be constructed in Canada since 1970. On a summer's day this year we will begin the four-millionth housing unit started in Canada since the end of the Second World War.

For the past five years we have been on target with the housing goals of the Economic Council of Canada, the Task Force on Housing and Urban Development, and the federal government—as outlined in the Speech from the Throne of 1969.

● (1420)

In 1974, housing production will be close to the 1973 level. The total dollar investment for new and existing housing during 1974 will approximately equal the \$6.5 billion made available last year. Mr. Basford thinks that housing starts will also be close to last year's total, and he expects that we will have a level of housing production somewhat the same as in 1973. An annual output of 235,000 housing units is needed for the foreseeable future. Last year's 268,000 starts demonstrate Canadian capacity both to cover the yearly increase in the number of families and the formation of non-family households and to replace housing destroyed or abandoned.

There are still thousands of Canadians who do not have access to adequate housing. Recent NHA amendments are intended to meet this social housing need. Ten years ago one in 70 units was slated for the low-income population group. Today one in every seven units is intended for low-income Canadians. In other words, we have multi-