

*The Address—Mr. Fleming*

nies of suburban sprawl. We find an old home where a family has lived for 50 or 60 years now having as a neighbour a 200-unit high-rise apartment. We have firms like Canadian Gypsum, if I can mention a company by name, which now claims to make an effort, at least, to clean up the pollution but which for many years brought suffering to the people of Weston in the absence of action at all levels of government, though at last something is being done. But this is the kind of agony which suburban community must suffer in the name of the greatest good, and so that all people can move back and forth and so that we can advance.

I believe there is a new mood, however. I think it was displayed in my own metropolitan area during our municipal elections last December—one which says it is not necessary to totally sacrifice a few for the greatest good of the greatest number; that solutions must be possible without unmerciful punishment of the few and that in the future the path of progress must always be smoothed by making sure that the environment remains acceptable for all and a pleasure.

The hon. member for Meadow Lake (Mr. Nesdoly) said yesterday that he believed his constituency to be a microcosm. I guess we all, with our commitments to our own people, think our constituencies are a microcosm of what Canada is. I present the same argument. The English language and culture have been adopted by the majority in my constituency, but the English people are, in fact, a minority. They are a good and proud people and I have that same background. I share with them much of the history that we respect together. The second largest group is the Italian people, and I have come to know them as a warm, generous and gracious people. I think we must do more to help them recognize our system and our traditions, to help them communicate better so we can all live happily with our traditions in one united country. I am also proud that the third largest group in my riding is French-Canadian. They represent only 5 per cent, but I pledge to this House that I will work on getting to know both our languages. I hope that by the time the next campaign comes—and please don't rush me—I can speak to them in their own language.

Our Community is made up of all races, Mr. Speaker, something of a rainbow as I think of it—it is black and yellow and red and brown and white. I like to think that we are here and that many young people can come here just now when they are looking for that pot of gold beyond the rainbow. They are not just looking for monetary gain. They are looking for that feeling of pride, of security and safety, of being able to put down roots in the knowledge that one's children will be well educated and that in the final years of one's life one will be able to live with one's friends and neighbours about you. I believe that is why people come to Canada. As their member of parliament I am committed to seeing that their hopes are realized.

I would like to turn now, briefly, to the elderly. In my opinion, the record of the government with regard to senior citizen housing has in recent years been very good. Starts made on senior citizens housing have increased over the years and there have been more senior citizens' dwellings started since 1968 than in all the years since

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confederation. Nevertheless, there still remains much to be done. It was for this reason I was most pleased to hear the minister say the other day that there will be further action, and real action, taken to assist our senior citizens.

In my riding there is a large amount of Ontario housing, the funds for which, as I understand it, come in large measure from federal funds. Despite this it appears that the federal government does not have much to say as to the manner in which these dwellings are constructed. In my opinion, too often have ghettos been created in which people's pride has been denied them. I hope that in situations where we are contributing substantially to facilities to look after people who need care, we shall try to influence provincial and municipal governments to make sure that such people are made to feel part of the community. It is also important that we show concern about those who live in the buildings, concern that they should be proud of their ability to work, proud of earning their living, proud of, and satisfied with, the work they are doing.

I look forward, as I am sure we all do in this House, to the unravelling of the rest of the plans of the government and the debate over the issues we are all here to confront. I have mentioned the elderly, and the hardship they encounter in trying to live on fixed incomes; I have mentioned those who are unable to work, and their right to live with pride and to lead a meaningful life and to be encouraged to that end. The subject of inflation, as will certainly appear from the figures published this morning, is one of increasing seriousness. We cannot excuse ourselves on the ground that other people have failed to find a solution. I hope that in this parliament we will find new approaches and do what others have not managed to do.

On the issue of unemployment, let me say I look forward to the budget; I know it is coming down soon. And despite the fact that we have the fastest growing labour market in the western world, despite the fact that a great number of jobs have been found, as long as there is a problem, we must do better, and I look forward to our doing so. Let me say again, that we owe a commitment not just to the sick and the disabled or to the elderly; we owe it to all our people, health and happiness for those working and paying taxes as well.

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I look forward to a more active role in modern transportation by the federal government. Also, when we talk about modern transportation I should like to make reference to rail services. It is my belief that within our urban areas communications are improving tremendously and we are becoming more and more innovative. However, in improving communications we must not forget the need for communications in our rural areas and perhaps the re-establishment of many rail lines the passenger services of which have been put out of use.

With regard to housing, I should like to make a brief comment on the fact that Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation has indeed had a commendable record over the past few years. In 1966 there were 134,474 housing starts, and five years later, in 1971, 233,653. This represents a tremendous increase which, translated into dollars, is from \$1.6 billion to \$4.6 billion. Nevertheless, much more must be done. I was encouraged when the Minister