

Mr. BEECROFT: We have quite an active branch in British Columbia and we have an office in Toronto. We have some part-time staff and quite active citizen groups in a good many of the large metropolitan areas.

Senator CRERAR: How is your association financed?

Mr. BEECROFT: As I mentioned at the beginning, our association is financed by contributions from some 3,000 members scattered across Canada. This membership is made up of a great variety of architects, engineers, municipal officials, builders, private citizens who are interested in housing and planning, municipalities themselves, about 200 of which contribute to the association in sustaining fees, and by nearly all the provincial Governments and by the federal Government under part 5 of the National Housing Act.

Senator EULER: What have you actually accomplished so far?

Mr. BEECROFT: That is a good question, which I would like, Mr. Chairman, to discuss very candidly and fully. I believe that over the years we have accomplished a great deal in one respect. We have succeeded in helping the municipalities to understand the need for engaging qualified technical planning staffs, and I believe we have helped to accelerate the efforts of many of the provinces to find ways of giving adequate technical assistance to the municipalities in connection with urban planning. In the last few years we have been in much more direct contact through our conferences and literature, and so on, with the elected officials themselves, who represent the public and who are responsible in the last resort for shaping our communities, and this has helped.

Senator PRATT: Do all the provinces have members in this association?

Mr. BEECROFT: Yes.

Senator PRATT: Has each province its own provincial organization which works in close co-operation with the national association?

Mr. BEECROFT: We have a provincial division in all provinces except one.

Senator PRATT: Which one is that?

Mr. BEECROFT: New Brunswick.

Senator PRATT: How often do the representatives of these various divisions meet on a national scale?

Mr. BEECROFT: We have one annual national meeting of members to discuss planning problems, and this meeting usually lasts about four days. Our National Council meets at least twice a year, and our smaller executive body meets about four times a year.

Senator WHITE: I should like to ask Mr. Beecroft one simple question before he leaves. On page 2 of his brief under the heading "A National Housing Policy" I see the following words under subparagraph (b) of paragraph 3:

"By encouraging strong measures to enforce maintenance standards for existing housing—thus compelling proper conservation measures..."

Please tell me which Government you had in mind, and whether you do not think that this suggestion is rather drastic?

Mr. BEECROFT: The municipal Governments are the ones mainly responsible for compelling observance of standards. The provinces can do a great deal to encourage this, and there is much that depends on the actual use of initiative by the municipalities.

Senator WALL: I do not want to use the word "compelling" but in order to set up a planned community within whose framework the municipality or private builders could sell land, you would have to set up more or less a compelling framework if you are to realize the fruition of the hopes you have of planned communities which would not finally deteriorate. In other words, setting up a compelling framework is almost crucial if you are going to carry out the concept outlined in your brief.