

*Suggested Lack of Urban Policy*

and somehow arrange for a separate income tax to go to the cities. This is the package that I got from listening to the initial speakers on that side of the House.

I suggest that this is the purpose which has to guide a government and all of us—to seek goals and to define our goals. What is the goal with regard to an urban policy? The goal is to create the kind of cities in which we want to live. In order to do this we must do a great deal more than was outlined in the initial presentation of the members of that group. The first problem is to co-ordinate the physical services in the cities: the infrastructure, the services that go below the ground, decide how deep the hydro transformers must be, when the electrical services are to be put underground, how big the sanitary sewers must be, how big the water mains must be. In order to do this it must be possible to anticipate the density pattern of the city not just for five or ten years but for the life of those services. A number of things have to be measured that are not measurable, and things have to be anticipated that cannot be anticipated in quantitative terms. In addition to the services below ground, somehow the services that go on it and above it have to be planned, so have the traffic arteries and an immense range of things to ensure the provision of services without which life in our cities is not possible.

The task of the urban planner is a very great one, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps in this city of Ottawa we have as good an example as any urban community on this continent of the difficulties of trying to bring into effect the physical planning of our cities and our urban structure. As far back as 1911 we had the Holt report, which would have put a whole cluster of government buildings on both sides of the canal. The greatest thing that happened to Ottawa was that no one had the opportunity to implement the Holt report. It would have been a traffic disaster and would have created situations before the automobile came into its own with which succeeding generations would not have been able to live.

We not only have to think of the physical services that go to the cities, Mr. Speaker—and Lord knows the complexities of anticipating needs are great enough and will be a challenge to the very best instruments which a computer age can devise—but we have to think of the quality of life in the cities themselves. I like to think of cities in terms of two basic characteristics: they are dynamic and I hope they are democratic. The cities are the

source of technical innovation in our society. They are the areas that create the demand for new services, greater services and higher levels of services. It is the cities that want better schools and new options in the schools, better student-teacher ratios. They are never satisfied with what they have. The cities are the source of demand for the higher and better standards of life which the twentieth century is coming to know.

It is not easy to say what the essential elements of the quality of life must be, Mr. Speaker. In many ways we live in terms of a cultural hangover of an idealist rural past. By the turn of the twentieth century well over 50 per cent of our labour force was engaged in agriculture; today fewer than 10 per cent of those in the labour force not only produce enough food for all of us but huge surpluses which are creating a serious problem in terms of disposal. I remember a writer who said that the cultural values of a previous generation were those of the Horatio Alger novel—the boy who grew up in the country, who resisted temptation in the city, who worked hard, who was thrifty, who was well motivated, who lived a good, clean life and who prospered. The same writer said the twentieth century Horatio Alger pattern should be something like this—the city boy who has the opportunity of better schooling, better health, better education, who grows up and takes land that is not being efficiently utilized in the country and does very well by selling his surplus for disposal under government subsidy programs.

Somehow the pattern has reversed itself. There is no question that within our urban environment we have to set the standard for the quality of life that we want to achieve. The democratic administration of the services which must be provided to urban centres is one of the absolutely essential features of the kind of city I want to see. A democratic city to me is not segregated by public housing or other ghettos. It is a city in which there is equal access to education and to health services. It is a city in which all those things that are part of what we call the good life are provided in an effective way. It is a city in which the people who are governed have a say in the way in which they are governed.

● (9:00 p.m.)

This is a very simple proposition. It is a basic axiom that I am sure very few would dispute, but in working out the mechanics in a city there are innumerable difficulties. The