

*Social Development Ministry*

modern parliamentary history. In the end, the legislation disappeared with the Thirty-first Parliament, but not before the vote in which three members opposite with a social conscience voted in favour of the legislation. We knew on that night who those members were. I commend them for their good sense, but fear for their political future in that party. We remain committed to the concept of a mortgage interest and realty tax credit based upon the social goal of adequate housing for Canadians. We see it as a stimulation and a social tool rather than an economic tool.

The ministry should co-ordinate a study on the impact of a shelter allowance to solve the housing needs of Canadians. A shelter allowance could be substituted for present housing production subsidies, or used to supplement them. I suggest that we look at what the individual can afford to spend on housing and make that our criteria when deciding on a shelter allowance. The ministry must be able to stand aside from the ingrained thought of CMHC and look at things on an independent basis.

I would suggest that the ministry review the activities of CMHC and see whether it makes sense to co-ordinate a lending and a mortgage insurance function with the concept of social housing. Is it fair to ask CMHC to apply the principles of profit and loss and balance sheet analysis to the social question of adequate housing for Canadians? More important, is it fair to Canadians?

Another area where the ministry of state for social development could play a major role is in co-operative housing. It is safe to say that it is doubtful if society will ever reach the stage where every Canadian is capable or desirous of owning his or her own form of shelter. There will always be a segment of society which cannot afford adequate housing. We have to work with this government to reduce that segment which requires public housing.

● (2100)

I suggest that co-operative housing may be an attractive alternative to public housing. Co-operative housing describes housing constructed or obtained by a group of people who own it collectively. It has the potential for keeping good housing within the economic reach of families of all incomes. Pride of ownership may overcome some of the problems of public housing shelter. We have not really looked at this concept of co-operative housing. I want to see the ministry of state for social development examine that concept to determine its role in the development of adequate housing for Canadians.

I want to deal briefly with a subject that is close to me, the role of the volunteer in society. In my view that role is threatened and, should we lose it, society will be the loser. As the past president of the Canada Jaycees, I wish to read the creed of the Junior Chamber International into the record. I quote:

We believe

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;

That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;

That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;

That government should be of laws rather than men;

That earth's great treasure lies in human personality;

That service to humanity is the best work of life.

Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, Kinsmen, Y'sMen, and the quota clubs, to name a few of the many service clubs in Canada, have similar creeds. The Cancer Society, the Community Chest, the Association of Conservation Clubs, etc., all have aims and ideals reflecting a belief that men and women should contribute of themselves to make Canada a better place to live.

But the role of the volunteer is being downgraded in Canadian society. The valuable contribution which these volunteer groups can make is threatened. They are threatened by a federal government which attacks their views and undermines their efforts. Two years ago the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) was quoted as follows:

For the last two years, we (the federal government) have not heard the voices of the poor, the old . . . just those of businessmen. Small and big.

That worries me very much.

"We're getting very strong public opinion from small and big business in Toronto and western Canada that we don't need family allowance and social expenditures in Canada doesn't make sense . . . they cost too much.

It's coming from groups like the chambers of commerce and Kiwanis Clubs and I'm very concerned with messages like that.

The chambers of commerce, the Kiwanis clubs, the Rotary clubs, every service club of Canada, have every right to make their feelings known.

They are business people. They represent General Motors, and they represent the corner store. If they have been telling the government something, perhaps they should sit up and take notice. They employ, and they are also employees. They know the increasing bite of the tax dollar. They are well aware of the shrinkage that occurs from gross salary to net salary, just as they are aware that their net salary buys less because of inflation. They know they have to make a profit and operate efficiently.

They know they must face their bankers. I might point out that they do it more than every five years, which is the Liberal habit. In my opinion, the minister's remarks were an affront to every service club in Canada, not just the Kiwanis clubs, the Rotary clubs and the chambers of commerce, but every service club.

I want to take just a minute to examine how we have come to the point where a federal cabinet minister can make such a statement. What we have in this country is a LIP grant psychology which has hurt service clubs and voluntary organizations over the years. Traditionally, service clubs found a need in the community, whether it was to raise funds for crippled children or to build a sheltered workshop for the mentally handicapped. We had to examine the value of the project and we had to prove it to the club executive and the membership. Then we took it and we did it. It usually took a great deal of time and effort. We begged, borrowed and scrounged the materials and manpower. When we were finished, the community had something of lasting significance and the members were left with a sense of satisfaction.