

gether to assist them in saving this land, will the federal government find some means of assisting the city of Vancouver in what, when you get right down to it, is a last ditch fight for one of the few remaining green spaces in the third biggest city in Canada?

Mr. Pierre De Bané (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of State for Urban Affairs): Madam Speaker, I was most impressed with the strong representations of the hon. member for Vancouver South. I hope that during the period that I am Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of State for Urban Affairs I will have occasion to go to Vancouver and see the situation about which the hon. member spoke so eloquently.

Mr. Alexander: Go tonight.

Mr. De Bané: I thank the hon. member for the invitation, and I hope I will be able to go there as soon as possible.

With regard to meeting with the citizens' group, the federal government is the government of all Canadians and we can meet with any citizens' group. But in municipal matters very delicate questions are involved, and primarily I think we should deal with provincial governments as well as with municipal governments. That is not to say that we should not also meet with citizens' groups.

I can assure the hon. member that the federal government is in full agreement with him that there is a need for open spaces in any new development. But one must bear in mind that overall control of land use is a provincial responsibility. Indeed, it is the usual practice of the prov-

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inces to require that a percentage of land for development be set aside for park use.

[*Translation*]

During the tri-level conference held last autumn, the hon. Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Basford), when suggesting guidelines for the land assembly program implemented by a province or a municipality under the terms of the National Housing Act, recommended that the profits from the leasing or the sale of the land be ploughed back into the project. Thus, land reserved for green spaces and other facilities, including the development of land for recreational purposes, as well as community-oriented buildings, could be provided under this program to the extent allowed by the profits from the sale of the land.

Moreover, under the terms of the new community program, the government is authorized not only to acquire the land, but also to include land for public spaces within or around a new community, or to use such land to separate it from an existing community.

[*English*]

Having spoken briefly on the means to ensure that green spaces will be provided in future land development financed under the NHA, I must now restate our concern for the older cores of cities. It is possible, since last year's amendments to the National Housing Act, for municipalities to undertake neighbourhood improvement programs to redesign and rehabilitate older core areas, and to provide open spaces and community facilities in them if this is the wish of the residents of the neighbourhoods when establishing priorities for the use of the available federal funds.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.29 p.m.

END OF VOLUME I