

program for the year of its establishment and that a further amount of \$184,000 has just been allocated to it precisely in order to improve the lot of the aged. In my opinion, all public servants working on this program—forty-odd people—were themselves registered with the unemployment insurance office or were drawing welfare benefits. They are now serving from 250 to 300 aged people. The efficiency of this program seems to have been proven.

I could now talk about a project initiated in the riding of Laval West, where we are providing the aged with a little bit of happiness by visiting them daily, taking them to a doctor or to the hospital. I think that this is part of the Liberal policy which is intended to be human with the aged people.

As I was saying, Mr. Speaker, the Progressive Conservatives have lost the confidence of the Canadian people since 1962, because they had no realistic social policy geared to the aspirations of the underprivileged, because they were conservatives with a small c, because they had a negative approach to problems.

Mr. Speaker, they are so used to criticism that they forget the positive aspect in their suggestions to the government with a view to solving the problems facing us.

At the present time, the Canadian people earn, spend and save more money than they ever did before. Salaries and wages of the Canadian people reached an annual level of \$56 billion at the end of the first half of 1972, or an increase of \$5 billion, that is 10 per cent, in one year, and 55 per cent since 1968.

The savings of Canadians have soared to \$6,900 million in the middle of 1972, or an increase of \$2 million over the corresponding period last year and almost three times the amount reached at the beginning of 1968.

Those are facts that members of the opposition do not take into account when they blame the government.

In the area of housing, we have reached an all-time record. In 1971, there were more than 233,000 starts, while in 1972, this figure reached almost 250,000, and a further increase is even expected for 1973, which will enable us to exceed our objective of one million new homes for the five years ending in 1974. Thanks to our low-cost housing program, we have built twice as many homes of that type in the last four years than during the previous 25 years.

Furthermore, as announced by the Minister of State for Urban Affairs (Mr. Basford), we contribute to the restoration of the existing houses and provisions are made for repairing and rehabilitating dwellings.

The Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation is the instrument of the federal social policy in the field of housing and community planning as stated the minister of housing in his speech of January 11.

Because of the amendments to be brought to the National Housing Act, the federal government, in co-operation with the provinces, will assist in the provision of low-cost housing and other accommodation for senior citizens, will provide assistance in the rehabilitation of older neighbourhoods, a warranty system to protect the purchasers of new houses—and God knows it is needed right now—assistance in the relocation of railway tracks and a study

*The Address—Mr. M. Roy*

of the government's responsibilities with regard to urban transportation generally.

As the representative from the second most important city in the province of Quebec, I can assure the House that these urban renewal policies will certainly be welcomed by the people of Laval.

Municipalities are facing increasing responsibilities and disproportionate obligations in view of the tax burden that they must impose on their residents. Considering that 75 per cent of Canadians live in urban centres and that our country will soon be 90 per cent urbanized, we must not only react to this trend but provide for financial aid at the three government levels to serve this population better. This approach will be reflected in a three-level conference that will be held this year on the initiative of the federal government.

In the field of agriculture, we must be as vigilant and imaginative as possible to secure an equal standard of living for rural people as for urban people.

In my first speech in this House in 1968 and in the meetings of the Standing Committee on Agriculture I have tried to make the government aware of the importance of a crucial factor of agricultural expansion in eastern Canada, particularly in Quebec and the maritime provinces. This is the situation of feed grains, on which we have already made representations. All Liberal members made representations to the minister, and an ad hoc committee was created, the National Grain Board, and a meeting was held with the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. We postponed the announcement of a change in the present situation precisely because we respected the associations and did not want to take unilateral decisions. We took some and we will continue to take them in co-operation with the farm associations.

I would like to add, Mr. Speaker, that we will not be satisfied with half measures regarding the situation of feed grains. I was very happy to hear in the Speech from the Throne that the feed grain problem would be solved in this very session. I am very happy now to support that request which is now the subject of discussions and has been the object of representations since 1968. I hope that when this new policy on feed grains is announced—I am now looking at the hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Wagner)—he will support it and that it will have more support from the Progressive Conservatives than when we tried to introduce the bill intended to better organize production, that is the bill creating national marketing agencies. It took two years of sittings, some of which kept us up all night, to get that bill passed because of the opposition of that party.

I therefore hope that when time comes to suggest changes in the price structure of feed grains, we will have the co-operation of the hon. members of the Progressive Conservative party.

• (1640)

[English]

My last sentence is one to which I refer every day. Give a man more than he can do, and he will do it. Give him less than he can do and he will not do it.