

needs across the country; to suggest priorities of need and plans to meet them.

The federal government is prepared to participate at once in the establishment and maintenance of such a continuing council.

As I envisage it, the council would comprise members drawn from a broad range of skills and experience in this field and appointed in a manner agreed to by the provincial and federal governments.

As far as I am aware, Mr. Speaker, nothing came of that suggestion, although I think it is one of the few good ideas the previous Prime Minister had. I think it deserved a better fate than it has had. We might, perhaps, turn for guidance to things that are being done in other countries. In France, for example, just recently their Prime Minister issued, in the official bulletin, a decree establishing an environmental committee. This committee will be dealing with problems of improvement of living space, crowding, pollution and nuisances of all kinds, management of the landscape and, in general, all the positive and negative elements involved with man and his environment.

I read also that the University of Quebec has set up the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique. The University of Quebec has announced the establishment of the Centre de Recherches Urbaines et Régionales. The centre will focus on the problems of spatial, economic, social and political reorganizations caused by increasing urbanization, and on the search for solutions. The creation of this is very close to the basic idea contained in my resolution. I commend the University of Quebec for setting this up and suggest that the government should carefully study the possibility of giving a grant to that institution to help in its research.

Certainly we have to find out many presently unknown facts. What is the best environment and how can it be achieved, if it is within our means! What is the best design for an environment which will minimize pollution and minimize the tremendous wasted effort that Canadians put forth every day of the problem of getting to their jobs from their homes in our urban centres? What are the effects of stress? How can we provide most efficiently, and at the most reasonable cost, the social infrastructure that is needed for the good life—schools, parks, churches and everything that goes to make a well-rounded and balanced life? How do we provide recreation and even solitude for millions of Canadians? There are forces that cause crowding. People seem to crowd into our large cities in droves. The larger the city, the more they crowd in, like lemmings going over the cliff. They do not know why they do this. I do not believe they do this by choice but because of economic forces.

I believe in free enterprise and I am a free enterpriser, but I do not believe in unrestricted and perhaps unwarranted licence to free enterprise to haphazardly and unthinkingly determine by accident the structure of our country's future. I believe that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. I do not think it is good enough for business to determine where it is to be located, creating primary jobs and also creating additional jobs by the multiplier effect of service employment in an area simply

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on the basis of a balance-sheet of that particular company as related to where the greatest market will be.

I believe that a method must be found to relate the location of primary employment to where it would serve the best general interest of the country. I do not think it is good enough for business to locate in certain places without having any requirement to give consideration to the problems that location creates in the way of pollution of air, water and soil, or any consideration to where workers will live, the cost of the land where they will live, how they are to be transported from their jobs to their homes, what level of government, at what cost, will provide new schools, churches, parks, roads, sewage disposal, and so on.

Business should not be allowed to locate without any consideration to the tax burden involved. I believe a tax structure could be adjusted to reflect the total burden of governments at all levels which the presence of any business which provides employment would create. If this were done, and if this relationship between the problems were created and the location reflected in the tax structure, I think the population increase would be attracted to areas of our country where its presence would be an asset and not a liability in the over-all sense. This would help us create a country which we can hand on with pride to future generations.

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Forestry): Mr. Speaker, at the outset I should like to say that I rise not to kill the motion but to praise it and the hon. member who brought it to the attention of the House this afternoon. On first reading the motion now before us one may be led to believe that this is a wonderful new proposition the hon. member for Malpeque (Mr. MacLean) has put before the House. As he carefully pointed out, such a proposition was made years ago.

I think all hon. members will recognize that the various components of a proposed institute of human environmental studies already exists, but in a somewhat disorganized way at this stage. By that I mean we already have a hard core of expertise, research facilities and probably enough accumulated data to launch such an institute to incorporate these various elements under one roof, so to speak. What has been wrong up to now is the lack of organization and orientation of policies, standards, aims and the confusion over the sometimes abundance of methods to attain our goals. We have the talent and the potential. What has been lacking until very recently has been a sense of direction. Finally, we seem to know what we want and seem to be prepared to pay the price.

• (4:20 p.m.)

I am pleased to speak to the motion of the hon. member for Malpeque. Once again I should like to congratulate him very sincerely for his excellent presentation. Among matters contained in the hon. member's motion which are of particular concern to me, and I am sure to other hon. members, is that of the government considering setting up, in co-operation with the provinces, an institute of