

of new dwellings, their manner of financing, their architectural design and community planning; it has also encouraged anti-pollution measures, urban renewal and slum clearance. It has assisted particularly in meeting the special needs of students, low income families, the aged, the handicapped and the disadvantaged.

Increasingly over the past few years direct federal financial aid has been allocated to the area of social housing. More than \$300 million has been invested in the production of limited dividend housing for low income families, some \$125 million in loans to non-profit corporations, mainly for housing for the elderly.

Mr. Lewis: Over what period?

Mr. Andras: I will give the hon. member the comparison in a minute. Three hundred million dollars has been lent for public housing, and \$160 million has been invested in federal-provincial public housing. In excess of \$300 million has been made available in the way of loans to student housing projects. Virtually every Canadian city of major size has turned to the federal government for assistance in planning and implementing urban renewal programs. At the same time, more than 1,000 municipalities in this country have received loans totalling more than \$300 million to assist in the construction or expansion of sewage treatment facilities. Under the terms of the National Housing Act one-quarter of this amount has been written off by the federal government.

Over the years federal legislation has kept abreast of changing municipal requirements by constantly updating the National Housing Act. Just the other day the house dealt with several important measures which are addressed squarely to meeting some of the more pressing needs of municipalities. Indeed, I can assure hon. members that since that time all the provinces and many municipalities which have recorded their feelings in this regard have indicated that they welcome the latest changes, particularly the broader assistance to assemble raw land for all housing purposes. We know from our discussions with them that they look to this measure not only as a means of reducing the high cost of serviced land but as a real incentive, facility and instrument for planning. Also welcomed universally across Canada was the proposal to extend the forgiveness period on loans for sewage treatment projects.

Although the federal government has contributed substantially to these areas of civic

Alleged Failure to Cope With Urban Growth improvement, it has no prerogative in the actual physical planning of our municipalities. There have developed in many large urban communities complex, complicated, overlapping networks of municipalities in a single urban area, each responsible, autonomously almost, for its own planning, its own struggle for a balanced assessment between industrial and residential use, and all without regard to the larger urban area of which it forms a part. There is in most urban places the lack of an over-all plan of urban development for the whole area in which future growth is to take place. Consequently, instead of urban regional plans for the development of industry, housing, education, transportation, open spaces, recreation, pollution control and urban renewal on a regional basis there exist in many cases municipal restrictions to exclude those activities which do not produce sufficient municipal taxes to carry them.

• (4:10 p.m.)

The co-ordination of urban regional planning in Canada is the responsibility of the provinces, and only the provinces can take the direct action which is required to provide the necessary solutions. There is, of course, an inclination to think the federal role in contributing to the urban fabric has been confined to housing. In reality, many federal departments and programs have contributed to the urban development process. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been invested in the construction of modern airport facilities, railway and terminal facilities and harbour facilities, all of which are essential for healthy urban growth.

Federal contributions to universities in 1968 and 1969 total about half a billion dollars, and to assist the provinces in the provision of adequate hospital care in our urban centres more than three-quarters of a billion dollars was spent in 1968 and 1969. Universities and hospitals must be considered as two essential and significant modern community enterprises.

The federal government has sponsored and supported information, educational and research activities directed toward the improvement of housing conditions and community development. Individuals, educational institutions and such well known organizations as the Canadian Housing Design Council, the Community Planning Association of Canada and the Canadian Council on Urban and Regional Research, continue to receive federal financial assistance. Virtually every major Canadian city has turned to the federal