

*Rural Development*

their greatest possible extent. Private enterprise gives people a chance to develop their talents so that they will not require the government to be paternal toward them to the extent that they do not need to worry.

In this connection I should like to quote the assurance, to some extent at least, of the minister in his speech yesterday, when he said as reported at page 4940 of *Hansard*:

The fund will not serve as a disguised social welfare program nor as a program whose sole objective would be to give work to the unemployed.

In the next column these words appear:

ARDA seeks always to achieve the best possible combination of public investment and participation by the local people. ARDA seeks the most efficient investment for basic improvement of the region's capacity to provide a sound base for the economy.

I do not think we can find too much fault with that statement, but I should like to inform the minister that he will achieve much greater satisfaction and results from the whole program if he will consider a slight amendment to the clause of the bill which deals with the setting up of the boards. It is proposed to set up boards consisting of ten members who will be drawn from various departments in Ottawa. I suggest to the minister that he consider as candidates for the boards representatives from municipalities in which projects are located.

● (5:40 p.m.)

If the minister is going to accomplish anything in the nature of improvements in order to eliminate poverty to some degree, I think it would be beneficial to use local people on these advisory boards. Their use would be of benefit to the provincial governments which do not come as close to the people as do the representatives of the municipalities. Therefore, if it were possible to make a slight amendment in order that the municipalities could be represented on the boards, I am sure that matters of local interest and local need would be brought to the attention of the boards to a much greater extent than if they were made up of those not familiar with local conditions or with the needs of the people in general.

I agree with the words of the hon. member for Acadia when he said that we must give the small farmer the right to remain small. I do not think we should consider that because an individual is doing something on a smaller basis than somebody else, he should be brushed aside as though he is not important. I think that combinations of smaller people are more important generally to the economy

[Mr. Flemming.]

of the country than the large operators no matter what may be the particular sphere of economics in which they are engaged. In other words, I think it is better to have ten small farmers earning \$3,000 each in a community than to have one large farmer earning \$30,000. I think that the ten farmers earning \$3,000 each are of more benefit to the community as a whole than one farmer with a gross income of \$30,000.

Here I believe we get to the root of the problem. It has to do with the individual. We are here for the purpose of legislating for the benefit of individuals regardless of where they may be.

As the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge) said, everybody seems to be in favour of this legislation. There is universal approval in the chamber, I think, because everyone sees here an attempt to deal with the problem and everyone wants the problem dealt with.

May I make some suggestions to the minister in the hope that they may be of some benefit to him as he proceeds with his duties in administering the act. I hope that the act when passed will have the effect of ameliorating the problems of poverty in low income communities. I am sure we all hope that this will result from the legislation before us at the present time.

Having expressed my views concerning the individual, I want to say that I believe it is better to give the individual an opportunity to do things for himself than to give the impression that you are going to do everything for him. Enabling the individual to better himself should be the aim, the object and the objective of the legislation.

Having made my point, I do not propose to take any more time of the house. I am sure we will all await with great interest the activities to be carried on under the act. We want to see it in operation. May I assure the minister that to the extent I may be able to be of assistance to him he may consider my services are at his disposal at all times.

**Mr. Leonard Hopkins (Renfrew North):** Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the minister is in his seat at the present time. I am sorry that the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Hamilton) is not here. I should like to pay a special tribute to the minister and to the hon. member for Qu'Appelle for the gentlemanlike way in which they began this debate yesterday afternoon. That sort of thing is refreshing in this house and I am sure that all those on the