

Regional Development Incentives Act
**PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS
 FOR PAPERS**

**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES
 ACT**

REQUEST FOR CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN
 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND GOVERN-
 MENT OF SASKATCHEWAN

Mr. John Burton (Regina East) moved:

That an humble Address be presented to His Excellency praying that he will cause to be laid before this House copies of all correspondence between the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan regarding the selection of designed regions under the new Regional Development Incentives Act.

• (5:00 p.m.)

He said: On November 26 last, I placed this notice of motion for papers on the Order Paper in view of my concern about the designated areas program under the Regional Development Incentives Act as it applied to the province of Saskatchewan. Indeed, this concern was shared by many other people in the province of Saskatchewan in view of the state of the Saskatchewan economy, particularly in the past year.

I think it is very useful and timely that we should have an opportunity to discuss the implications of this motion and its import in terms of the current situation. It is also timely and useful to have this discussion in view of the minister's announcement yesterday afternoon. All of us recognize that the programs that are involved are important in fostering and promoting a recovery and improvement in the state of the Saskatchewan economy which has experienced very severe setbacks within the past two to three years in particular. This, of course, marked an interruption of a steady period of growth over the past 25 years or so, from the early forties through to the mid sixties.

Over the past year and a half this growth has shown a very sharp change in direction. There has been a downturn in the state of the Saskatchewan economy. Figures produced by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for 1968, although not published as yet due to a changed reporting system, show personal income per capita in Saskatchewan for the year 1968, the latest year for which figures are available, is almost \$300 per capita below the Canadian average. If one excluded the factor of change in farm inventory, and this change in farm inventory and the net addition to farm inventory was included in these

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard).]

personal income figures, we would see that the income per capita in Saskatchewan for 1968 was almost \$400 below the national average.

It can also be noted that both of these figures, with or without the change in farm inventory, are below all other Canadian provinces with the exception of the four Atlantic provinces. Indeed, they are below the figure for the province of Quebec where it has often been noted there is a great need for economic stimulus. When the designated regions were first announced last August, many people in Saskatchewan were profoundly concerned. They could not see any rationale in the designation of the particular areas of Saskatchewan which were included under the terms of the new Regional Development Incentives Act. There is a strip across the south of the province which includes such communities as Estevan, Weyburn and Moose Jaw. I have no objection to the inclusion of these communities and I think a good case could be made for their inclusion. There is also an area in the northeastern part of the province which includes the communities of Melfort, Humboldt, Nipawin, Hudson Bay and a few other towns as well.

I have no objection to the inclusion of these communities in the designated areas program. However, if these communities are to be included then I certainly think an equal or better case can be made for the inclusion of many other communities in Saskatchewan. One of the communities in the northeastern block of Saskatchewan, the town of Humboldt, happens to be my home town. I have a certain amount of loyalty and faith in my old home town, but I can say that the town of Humboldt is as prosperous as many other centres in that province. The point I wish to make is that many people in the province of Saskatchewan felt that if it were possible to include a community such as Humboldt, it should be possible to include many other communities and towns such as Wynyard and Melville. There are many such communities that could be named throughout the province.

The Qu'Appelle Valley is one area which is of interest in the province of Saskatchewan. This valley has new potential for development as a result of the completion of the South Saskatchewan dam and the assurance of a more stable water supply for that part of the province since the water supply has been linked with that of the South Saskatchewan River and the waters impounded by the South