

percentage of foreign ownership in parts of the country such as Ontario which have enjoyed greater growth. This is no credit to the foreign-controlled firms but is due to the fact that they have concentrated their activities in that part of the country to the virtual exclusion of other parts of Canada. I suggest that much greater emphasis needs to be placed on infrastructure programs. The government will say that a good deal of money has been spent in this area. I suggest that money was spent quickly in the initial stages of the program but a good deal of it was on projects which were unplanned.

I suggest that with proper planning, infrastructure programs can influence the economics of an industry or of a region and the social conditions in those parts of the country. In particular I would like to make a case for the province of Saskatchewan, where recently we have experienced a disastrous turn in the economy. At various times in the past the Saskatchewan economy has been buoyant. The province has been leading in terms of economic activity. But this is not the case at present. In 1970 Saskatchewan stood seventh among the provinces in personal income per capita. It was well below the national average, approximately 20 per cent below the national average. There has been a population exodus from Saskatchewan.

At the same time, the government says that certain areas of Saskatchewan do qualify for assistance but we have seen very little assistance in that province. I also suggest that there is conflict between the minister's programs and the programs of departments such as the Department of Public Works and the Department of Transport which have laid a great deal of emphasis on programs in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec to the virtual exclusion of programs in the Atlantic provinces and the four western provinces. I should like the minister to reconcile that program with the programs he is trying to carry on at present.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but the suggestion has been made to the Chair that between now and the hour or so that is left, instead of having three 20-minute speeches, in order to give more opportunity to members we should have four 15-minute speeches, which would leave four or five minutes at the end of today's sitting for the independent member for Joliette (Mr. La Salle). I have in mind hearing the hon. member for Labelle (Mr. Dupras), the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall), the President of the Privy Council (Mr. MacEachen), the hon. member for Skeena (Mr. Howard) and closing the debate by hearing the hon. member for Joliette. Of course, this is entirely in the hands of the House.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Could we not make this an order?

Mr. Speaker: Is this agreed?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Maurice Dupras (Labelle): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ever since I first read the motion of the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) I have had an urge to take part in this debate, for many obvious reasons. Reading all of the

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13 lines of the motion made me wonder how this could be tolerated in Canada where we ban hate literature. The leader of the NDP is not unlike the people with whom he keeps company, especially the company he kept at the Montreal Forum last Monday. I should like to mention a few names, such as those of his comrades Pepin, Laberge, and the clown of the court Chartrand who during this beautiful meeting did no less than incite the teachers and public servants of the province of Quebec to undermine the government and take as hostage the schoolchildren of the province of Quebec.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Howard (Skeena): Bourassa is undermining it well enough.

Mr. Dupras: In the few moments that I have at my disposal I would like to speak of the results of the program of regional economic expansion in the last five years. We have mentioned that it has created 50,000 jobs. Of course, to these 50,000 jobs we should add their generating value, which means another 150,000. I wonder if the people who fill these jobs are in agreement with the hon. member for York South regarding the value of the program. I wonder whether they share his view that this has been a disastrous experience.

Mr. Skoberg: You might be on the receiving end but on the losing end tomorrow.

• (1600)

[Translation]

Mr. Dupras: Mr. Speaker, I would also like to mention the 35 new industries that this program has brought to Labelle riding which I have the honour to represent. Let us ask the 1,500 workers or more employed in those factories if they agree with the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) when he states that this has been a disastrous experience and that the government spends money needlessly.

A look at the figures concerning the increase in the Gross National Product is enough to show the effect of the program on the Canadian economy. In 1970, for example, there was a real increase—taking into account the devaluation of the dollar—of 5.4 per cent, that is the greatest annual gain in volume since 1966. Those are the results that were not mentioned, Mr. Speaker.

With regard to the province of Quebec, I would like to quote some figures which do not accord with the opinions expressed by the leader of the New Democratic Party when he states that the regional economic expansion program has been a useless experiment. In fact the percentage of the earned income per capita of the work force in the province of Quebec, which, from 1949 to 1951, was 83.5 per cent of the whole of Canada, increased by 6.4 per cent to reach 89.9 per cent in the years 1968, 1969 and 1970.

These few figures illustrate very well, I think, the value of the program as well as what the program has contributed to the underdeveloped areas in the province of Quebec.

For instance, in other areas of the country, in the years 1950, for instance, the per capita income in the Atlantic area increased from 68 to 72 per cent of the national average, that is an increase of 4 per cent in about ten