

The Budget—Mr. Rodrigue

with provision for additional federal payments of \$31 million in grants and \$9.4 million in loans. If the province of Manitoba could become involved in an agreement such as this, I am sure many of the requests of the communities in the northern part of the province could be met quite easily and quickly.

I am wondering whether the arguments with New Brunswick and Newfoundland are handouts to provincial Liberal governments or a carrot to Quebec voters. This government, however, for some reason or another seems bound and determined to believe there is a line somewhere in Canada running from north to south. I do not know where that line is, but anything west of it receives very little attention.

Although there are a number of other matters I wished to bring to the attention of the House at this time, suffice it to say that the program of designated areas as opposed to the program of special areas has also not worked out in respect of the northern parts of the province. The designated areas program does not extend too far into the northern part of Manitoba. Again we have a situation in which it is very difficult to induce industry to come into a northern area. Industry seems to feel that such an area is too far away from the markets. This possibly is the reason the government has not extended these designated areas too far north within the province.

I wonder whether the government's economists have worked out the figures in order to determine just how much false economy would be involved in not extending these designated areas. The government is providing incentives for industry to locate in what are now rapidly growing urban areas. Immediately there is the problem of urban redevelopment and huge expenditures in order to provide the necessary services for these rapidly growing urban centres. Yet the government feels that the more isolated areas should not qualify as designated areas because industry may not be too anxious to go there because it might consider it to be too far from markets. I believe consideration should be given to a restructuring of the designated areas program so that industry would not only be given an incentive to build in these more isolated areas but would also be given an incentive in the form of an offset against the higher transportation costs involved in getting their goods to market.

We have all heard of a program which is being eagerly and interestingly watched by Canadians. I refer to the mid-Canada corridor

program which was a brainchild of Mr. Richard Rohmer. I believe the federal government should co-operate in this program to the fullest extent. I do not know what, if any, representations Mr. Rohmer or the officials of the mid-Canada corridor project have made to the federal government for assistance.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order. I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

Mr. Simpson: I have just one more sentence, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Does the House give unanimous consent to the hon. member to continue?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Simpson: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I believe the federal government has a wonderful opportunity to approach the people who are involved in the mid-Canada corridor program because I think this is a program which will go ahead on a continuing basis. I believe the federal government should approach these people on the basis that it is prepared to co-operate financially in an effort to see that some of the Indian, Eskimo and Métis people who have the capabilities are brought into the program on a consultative basis. I say the federal government should take this initiative because I doubt whether the budget in respect of the mid-Canada corridor program at the present time would allow for the hiring of such people. If the federal government were to take on the job of hiring such people to work on this program, I think it would be a good move because then I believe the native people in the area would feel they were a part of Canada's desire to open up and develop northern Canada.

● (5:50 p.m.)

[*Translation*]

Mr. Romuald Rodrigue (Beauce): Mr. Speaker, I should like to congratulate the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) on the way he fulfilled his duty of delivering his budget speech.

In his speech, he expressed his concern about the problems facing our country, more especially ever rising prices. He seemed most concerned about inflation which is getting worse and worse. As many economists and businessmen had done before him, he then urged Canadians, especially those in the low-