

Under the section of the act regarding programs and projects for the alternative use of land, (one of the three major sections of the act), these are the kinds of things the provinces have talked to us about:

Projects to establish association, group or community pastures. We believe that the use of land, that is now submarginal or marginal, for cultivation for grassing or pasturage will prove to be a major possibility of transfer of land use. It seems, in our meetings, that the provinces generally agree with us. I think all the provinces talked to us about or proposed community pastures programs. We are now working on a policy for community pastures, under ARDA, which I think will be acceptable to all the provinces. A number of different kinds of suggestions on the mechanics of this program, and how it would work, came from each province, and what I am trying to do now is to devise a program that rather comprises these various suggestions—that is, a program that is a compromise between them—and to come up with a community pastures assistance program that would apply across the country.

Projects to encourage farmers to establish pastures on marginal lands.

Projects to acquire marginal or other related lands for forestry purposes—for Crown or provincial forests, for municipal forests, county forests or other public forestry management areas. We believe that there can be a large scale transfer of lands which are now abandoned, unused or are under cultivation but which are uneconomic for cultivation, to tree growing, particularly in eastern Canada.

As you know, under the program we are concerned not with land idling, or keeping land in abandonment; we are interested in land use.

Senator STAMBAUGH: I wonder if I might ask this question at this time: What do you consider to be eastern Canada. Where is the line of demarkation?

Mr. DAVIDSON: When I say "eastern Canada," I am speaking of east of Manitoba—Ontario—

Senator STAMBAUGH: Starting at Ontario and going east?

Mr. DAVIDSON: Yes, sir.

Regarding this transfer of fairly large areas to tree growing, we are hopeful that this could result, over a period of years, in considerably increased incomes in rural areas, and that it could also be an important factor in the future competitive position of our forest industry and the supply of tree fibre at competitive prices down the line. If this is true, the transfer of these lands could not only be a major answer from the point of view of agriculture but could also have important implications from the point of view of the forest industry.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you mean, the transfer of property from one government to another, or the transfer of use?

Mr. DAVIDSON: The transfer of use.

Senator TAYLOR (*Westmorland*): It would still remain under the ownership of the individual?

Mr. DAVIDSON: In some cases the provinces propose that they would actually acquire the lands and put them into public forestry management areas. In other cases there is quite the opposite proposal, and that is to take public forestry management areas and lease them to farmers to establish an economic unit based on cultivation and tree farming, both.

Projects to acquire marginal lands for assembly to lease to adjacent farmers for forestry purposes, to promote diversified economic forest farm units. This kind of program was proposed to us in two provinces.

Projects for the acquisition and planting to trees of lands that are designated as marginal or submarginal agricultural lands.