

Rural Development

available. As a matter of fact, it was distributed to all the members of parliament when it first came out in August.

What were the main differences between the first agreements signed in 1962 and the one signed early in 1965?

• (7:30 p.m.)

[*English*]

The old agreement was for the duration of two and a half years from 1962 to March 31, 1965. The new federal-provincial rural development agreement is for five years. The first agreement was implemented through a general agreement and a number of program agreements. The new one which I have in my hands is implemented through a single rural development agreement, and is thus much less cumbersome administratively.

In the first agreement there were no formal arrangements provided for continual consultation on programs. Under this new agreement there are formal administrative arrangements through joint advisory committees and new regional administrations to provide for continual joint consultation. Under the first agreement the maximum federal expenditure in one year was \$20 million, for a total maximum contribution over two and a half years of \$50 million. Under the second agreement the maximum federal contribution is \$25 million per year, with a total federal contribution over five years of \$125 million.

Under the first agreement programs for land use adjustment put less emphasis on programs to re-establish people affected. Under the new agreement there is a large increase in emphasis on programs to assist rural people to re-establish on new farms through farm consolidation or in new employment in areas where opportunities may be better.

Under the first agreement there was no co-ordinated approach to resource development by areas, although considerable studies were undertaken in areas which could lead to such programs. Under the new agreement there is new emphasis on the alleviation of poverty in rural areas by means of a global approach embracing all the resources of disadvantaged rural areas in an effort to provide new income opportunities and raise standards of living.

Under the first agreement there was a system of individual project audits by the federal administration as provinces submitted them. Under the new agreement there will be a new system for the administration of joint

ARDA programs whereby the federal government and the province agree jointly on an entire program for a year or more and the entire program is considered.

This is a point which I am sure would have pleased the previous hon. member for Port Arthur. Under the first agreement Indian lands and Indian people were not excluded but were not particularly provided for. Under the new agreement there is special provision for the inclusion of Indian lands and Indian people under the ARDA program.

Under the old agreement there was provision for the establishment of rural development officers in the field and special training for such officers. Under the new agreement there is much greater attention paid to the training and establishment of rural development officers and the provision of facilities to carry out such training.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, the new spirit of the federal agreement on the economic rehabilitation of rural areas emphasizes the rural communities' human resources and on their physical resources as a whole. It can be said that it deals mainly with a rural labour program. Although we were not the first in that field, the new agreement was signed and negotiated before the manpower act was introduced last year. The agreement provides for a series of procedures to co-ordinate the new policy with that of the new department of Manpower. Second, the new agreement provides for the enlargement and consolidation of farms, which seems to us one of the major problems of the farming world in the rural areas. Third, it is an innovation in a way. On page 21 of the French text, the agreement provides for a special program for rural development areas. On page 22, it provides for the special rural development areas, that is to say that we are introducing for the first time a concept of planning at the regional level, a planning set up by co-ordinating the efforts of the provincial and federal governments.

It is an innovation in the field of administration in Canada. I would say that it concretizes for the first time the acceptance by the federal and provincial governments of the need for economic planning to eliminate in some areas of the country the concentration of low-income families and to eradicate unemployment and underemployment to improve the standard of living.

Not only have we innovated with that new agreement, but we have also improved our