

Most people who are not familiar with rural areas think only of farmers in that setting, but we need to develop options for professional people as well, those who wish to live in small communities where the air is cleaner. That can be developed through a system of special grants for medical students who wish to practice in rural settings. Nurses, dentists, teachers and lawyers who go into the educational system can say that when they have completed their education they wish to practice in a rural setting. On that basis we would enhance the development of a rural area for the production of goods by people on family farms, and not other interest groups.

• (1730)

Further to that, at the national level we need legislation which prevents foreign ownership of land. We need strong legislation, not the piecemeal kind of legislation we see in the foreign takeovers bill now before the committee. We must prevent foreign ownership of land. We want to prevent situations where you have an Oklahoma lawyer buying 45 sections of the top land in Saskatchewan. Further, we must prevent the corporate ownership of land by such companies as the National Grains Company. We must prevent corporations in the food processing industry buying large tracts of land for their own purposes.

It is not, as some people suggest, a selfish motive on the part of those of us who represent rural areas to speak of the development of a kind of option for unemployed young people and young couples to move into rural areas. If you develop a strong rural community with support services to take off the pressure from already overpopulated cities, as well as creating a domestic market for urban manufactured goods you attack the problem of unemployment in the age group about which I spoke at the beginning of my speech. This enhances the number of people involved in the rural areas and at the same time creates purchase and demand power for goods manufactured in the cities. This further enhances the employment situation in the large urban industrial areas.

It is very easy to speak in that manner. Even with the loss of 15 per cent of our farmers in the past six years, the farmers of this country still use more horsepower than Canadian industry. They need the equipment with which to operate. In terms of the entire food industry, farmers constitute 35 per cent of the work force in terms of employment; they purchase 30 per cent of the fuel requirements within the boundaries of Canada, 40 per cent of the tires and 40 per cent of the iron and steel sold in this country. In this way they keep the farm machinery workers employed in the city of Brantford and people working in iron and steel production areas. They create employment throughout this country. They create consumer demand which helps reduce the unemployment problem throughout this nation.

If we continue the present trend of depopulation and the federal government accelerates the trend in respect of rural areas, markets for domestic goods will further decline and there will be more unemployment in urban areas. When we developed this nation at the turn of the century—I do not like mentioning his name because of this political allegiance—Mr. Sifton produced an over-all policy of developing the west as a market for eastern

Unemployment among Youth

goods. Essentially, we still live in the kind of society where rural areas are important trade areas for industrial goods.

We sometimes complain about eastern tariff protection, and justly so, unfair freight rates and the unfair prices we pay for farm machinery; but what could hold confederation together through the development of a strong rural population which produces the grains which keep our balance of payments in order as well as creates a domestic market for manufactured goods. We must change agricultural policy so that the age of the average farmer is 27 or 37 and not 57. We must come to grips with this kind of rural development policy in the seventies or eighties, before it is too late.

[Translation]

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles)—Veterans Affairs—Consideration of increase in basic rate of war disability pension and veterans allowance; the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. Macquarrie)—External affairs—Denmark—Denial that Danish fishing cause of depletion of Atlantic salmon stocks—Government position; the hon. member for Selkirk (Mr. Rowland)—National Defence—Request for assurance that fourth training squadron based at Esquimalt will be operational this summer.

[English]

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

BUSINESS OF SUPPLY

ALLOTTED DAY S.O. 58—ALLEGED FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO PRODUCE PROGRAM TO DEAL WITH UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom):

That this House regrets the failure of the government to produce a comprehensive and coherent program to deal with the growing unemployment among our young people and its disregard of youth's legitimate aspirations.

Mr. Barnett J. Danson (Parliamentary Secretary to Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, it is rather interesting to follow the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Knight). I sympathize with the concern that he has, particularly when he represents a constituency that has produced great men like himself and his late and very respected predecessor who served on the other side of the House.

The lack of youth working on farms creates a great problem. I wonder whether the hon. member is trying to