

The Budget—Hon. J. Marchand

[English]

For the benefit of those who are always referring to the winter works program, I will repeat in English what I have just said in French. Do they know how much money we are spending under the winter works program? We are spending about \$25 million a year.

Mr. Dinsdale: It was doing a good job.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): In the last two years we have spent, for the same purpose but much more intelligently, about \$245 million.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): So if hon. members want to hark back to the winter works program, then let them explain to the public what the government is doing.

Mr. Dinsdale: Would the minister permit a question. Why, then, has the government reinstated the winter works program this year on an emergency basis?

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): We have not.

• (5:00 p.m.)

Mr. Sharp: We have done a more effective job than winter works.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): It has been explained in this House time and time again.

Mr. Dinsdale: Winter works.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): No. There are the ship-building loans, loans to the provinces for various winter works projects, but nothing like the old winter works program any longer exists. When you refer to the winter works program, I should say that this was about the only program at that time. There was, perhaps, one other. That program was concerned with regional development, and the total amount expended for the year was \$25 million. My department now spends over \$300 million for the same purpose. I believe we are doing much more. Those who think we can correct the unemployment situation by reverting to the old winter works program do not know what they are talking about.

Mr. Dinsdale: You are not achieving the same result—wasteful expenditure.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Then, we come to the matter of helping disadvantaged people. Whatever the hon. member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow) thinks, I am very sensitive to the same values he has and I am working on this. I am not reading the same speech he read of 25 years ago. Besides the stimulation of employment through the incentives program, besides the help to community services in the special areas, we have a variety of other programs to help people to adjust to changes and take advantage of new opportunities.

Under the ARDA legislation, we have a great variety of programs to help rural areas. Let me take as examples two new projects recently started in Saskatchewan. At Cutbank, we are putting \$1.5 million into a special training centre to provide Indian and Métis people with edu-

[Mr. Marchand (Langelier).]

cational upgrading and work experience. Again, at Last Oak Park, we are investing nearly \$3 million in helping Indian bands to develop recreation and tourist facilities from which they should be able to earn greatly improved incomes.

These are specific examples. We have been negotiating with the provinces broader ARDA agreements, which I expect to sign shortly. These will enable us to share with provinces in a very wide range of projects that will help people in rural areas to develop better incomes. I anticipate a considerable expansion of activity within the next few years.

As another aspect of helping people, we have greatly improved the resettlement program under which we help people in Newfoundland who want to move to the areas with better schools, better housing and more varied employment opportunities.

Then, we have the various FRED programs. The most ambitious is the Prince Edward Island development plan. That is working well, we are not complacent about it. Indeed, we are working out with the provincial government ways of making it more effective, particularly by providing funds for the school building program which is essential to economic and social progress on the island.

One of the most important of our new programs is particularly designed for severely disadvantaged people, such as people of Indian ancestry who have had little employment experience. We are anxious to provide a wide range of assistance to such people to set up, train for and finance their own undertakings. The details of such a program are now in the final stages of negotiation with the Prairie provinces and the Indian and Métis people, and we expect afterwards to expand the program to other provinces. Many of these social adjustment projects will build on the important work in preparing people for employment that is being done under the Newstart program.

Finally, in this brief review, I will mention the oldest of Canada's regional development programs. I refer to PFRA. Over the years, as everyone on the Prairies knows, it has contributed greatly to the improvement of land utilization and the conservation of water. Under today's conditions, with larger farms and the movement of prairie people into relatively larger towns, the key improvements in water utilization are necessarily those at the centres which act as the trading points for rural areas. With Brandon as a first example, we intend that PFRA should increasingly contribute to this need. In passing, I think I should mention I am very hopeful that very shortly we will have a solution for Gimli and Rivers. I have every reason to believe we have a solution.

Mr. Dinsdale: Come out with us soon.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): I am awaiting replies to my letters.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Stop over on your way back from Saskatchewan.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Another indication of the broadened range of projects for PFRA is its assistance to