

Establishment of Industry Department

equal chance to all the provinces to attain a balanced economy from their large centres to their remotest outposts.

Under the powers mentioned by the bill before us, there is, on the one hand, a provision for research on the problems particular to underdeveloped areas to help them and to co-ordinate efforts within each department to bring about an efficient action which will redress our economy and put an end to the exodus of healthy young people from small centres to large cities.

I think that the legislation before us indicates also, on the part of the government, a desire to decentralize its administration, to bring it nearer to the people, so as to understand its problems better and explain them to the higher levels.

I think that at the less favoured levels, there is a desire to be heard by those at the top, which will have much more serious consequences than we could foresee.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to single out my own district, where we have an unemployment situation of about 30 per cent of the available labour force. At this time, five provincial counties have formed a group, as well as the municipalities. The authorities have imposed a contribution of five cents a head on each citizen of a county and ten cents a head for the citizens of municipalities, to create a local economic guidance council, with a view to studying the possibilities of the communities concerned, and carrying out some plans which would revive their economy. But we knew very well that they could never accomplish such a major task alone without the sympathy and understanding of the upper levels of government.

We also know that the Quebec government to really enable family industry to crack the sound barrier, and to change from family industry to public industry, has created the "Société générale de financement" which will give assistance. But the federal government must also contribute and it is through unity and co-operation in the municipal councils, the county councils, the provinces and the federal government, that we will be able to address our intelligence and efforts to find a way to check the serious ill, that is, unemployment.

Before concluding my remarks, may I say that I am most happy about this bill which is aimed at solving a problem which concerns to the utmost those who have chronic

and constant unemployment in their ridings, who understand that unemployment statistics hide extreme hardship. There is also the danger that such hardship may entail enormous social ills, when there are so many opportunities, so much good will, so much skills waiting to be used, so many frustrated ideals and talents which should be given not only the hope but the possibility of solving those problems so that instead of being a burden for, if not a blot on society, they may become important assets contributing to the progress and to the development of the country.

We must have a master research and study plan, but also and concurrently we must have immediate programs to implement. I believe that history will reveal that the challenge offered by the development of the less favoured areas was courageously accepted by the right hon. Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) and his valiant team.

Let me quote the "vicomte de Meaux":

When God wants to punish nations, he sends them warriors whose only greatness is measured by the size of their swords, financiers whose only greatness is measured by the depth of their pockets and politicians whose only greatness is measured by the length of their speeches.

I believe that history will show that in 1963, Canada had a Prime Minister who was great by his achievements, by his understanding of problems, by his desire to give back to Canadians pride, hope and confidence in a brilliant future.

And the citizens of less favoured areas will say like Churchill: "Give us the tools and we will finish the job".

(Text):

Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat): Mr. Speaker, there are many provisions of this bill with which I do not agree. As a matter of fact I am not sure, as I stated earlier in the debate on the resolution, whether or not it would be desirable to set up this new department at all. However, without any reflection whatever on the remarks that have been made by the preceding speaker who, I know, has not made a contribution in this debate on the bill or on the resolution, I think that the greatest service we can render is to pass this motion for second reading and get into the committee stage so that we can—

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Olson: —ask some direct questions of the minister and get some direct answers. If at that stage the answers are not satisfactory, then we can use our persistence to