

[Translation]

Mr. C.-A. Gauthier (Roberval): Mr. Speaker, this bill is to extend the date by which facilities must achieve commercial production to qualify for a grant from the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. I am quite happy that DREE incentives are extended for another five years. The Regional Development Incentives Act has an obvious impact in creating new industries as well as developing existing industries which have to be modernized. Besides their new economic impact on municipalities, those incentives tend to reduce unemployment by creating new permanent jobs, if and when projects have been carefully selected and accepted in view of their profitability.

It is pointless to look back indignantly at sums which were granted frequently on the occasion of an election, and did not fulfill the people's hopes, because the sums had been voted on the eve of an electoral campaign and the minister took advantage of them. Those are things of the past, boss patronizers are no longer with us, so that today, with a new minister, we are looking to the future with confidence.

Obviously the minister cannot do everything by himself. Each region, each group and I should say each businessman should proceed with a serious study of the economic situation in their areas and submit to the department projects which might be approved by the minister. We are going through a somewhat uncertain period, since markets are less open than they used to be in the past years. The minister will therefore have to concentrate slightly less on primary industries to explore more fully the opportunities and needs of secondary and tertiary businesses.

Mr. Speaker, in my area of the Roberval constituency, with which the minister is as familiar as I am, a fair share of unemployment is to be blamed on the development of our primary industry, namely forestry. Modernization and mechanization have paved the way for higher productivity while reducing manpower needs by 50 per cent.

Since the forest industry labour force included 50 per cent of farmers—they were called marginal farmers, which means half farmers and half forestry workers—this explains the reduction of the population in most of our small municipalities since no industry filled the gap left by the forest industry. We shall therefore have to think of something else to replace that industry and consider multipurpose secondary and tertiary industries. Since in Quebec we now have to import 45 per cent of our food products, it seems to me that businessmen must have enough imagination to produce in Canada what is required to create secondary and even tertiary industries which will allow the consumer to benefit from our farm products 12 months a year.

I do not understand that Quebec does not have all the processing plants and cold storage plants required to receive the harvests that our producers must sell immediately at ridiculous prices because of the lack of processing and storage industries. We also have an urgent need of mechanical industries and finished wood industries.

I therefore ask the minister to direct his activities towards this area in the next five years. Moreover, I believe that the minister should help cities and municipalities solve their water and sewer problems.

Telecommunications

The problem of sewerage is urgent in the Roberval-Lac-Saint-Jean area. We should protect our environment. We should first of all clean up our rivers and lakes and then ensure that they will remain pollution-free.

The Minister of Regional Economic Expansion will have to continue to help in the development of new industrial sectors in co-operation with the provinces and cities concerned. If the minister wants to meet his objectives of eliminating regional disparity, he will have to free himself of certain political influences of past years and treat each area justly and fairly. This can certainly not be restricted to the federal department level or to the officials of the minister.

We shall therefore have to cut through the red tape and ask for the co-operation of the provinces and all groups interested in working for the prosperity of their area. Lac-Saint-Jean-Roberval is a young area to be developed which is achieving a place of its own in Quebec's economy. That is why we shall be relying tremendously on the assistance of the Regional Economic Expansion Department in the years to come.

[English]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner (London East)): Is the House ready for the question?

Some hon. Members: Question.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner (London East)): Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion agreed to and bill read the third time and passed.

Mr. Sharp: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, it has been agreed among House leaders that we are to proceed with the bill changing the name of Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation as the next order of business as announced. I do not think there is any intention to engage in debate; I think we are to give it third reading.

May I also say that it is a great pleasure to see in the House this afternoon our newly appointed Minister of Communications (Mrs. Sauvé).

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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CANADIAN OVERSEAS TELECOMMUNICATION CORPORATION ACT

AMENDMENT TO CHANGE NAME OF CORPORATION

Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (for the Minister of Transport) moved that Bill S-27, to amend the Canadian Overseas Telecommunication Corporation Act, as reported (without amendment) from the Standing Committee on Transport and Communications, be concurred in.

Motion agreed to.

Mrs. Sauvé moved that the bill be read the third time and do pass.