

*The Address—Mr. Dubé*

federal and provincial governments will join in a major regional planning effort in north-eastern New Brunswick through the Fund for Rural and Economic Development, better known as FRED. I hope this unequivocal and specific confirmation will re-assure our people that both governments intend to proceed immediately and actively with the development of the pilot region.

Mr. Speaker, it was on September 20 last, in Fredericton, that the first cannon shot went off, confirming the declaration of war against poverty.

That is the time and place where the federal and provincial ministers signed the agreement to implement the development program of the northeastern area of New Brunswick. It was the first plan of that kind in the country and, if I am not mistaken, the first try at rural planning in North America.

That agreement was signed under ARDA, passed by parliament here in 1961, and more immediately under the Fund for Rural Economic Development Act passed by the Canadian parliament last May.

The Fredericton agreement binds the two governments to co-operate in a joint program and to set up the administrative machinery needed to implement it.

I am particularly interested in the pilot area, Mr. Speaker, because it includes the ridings of Restigouche and Gloucester as well as the parish of Alnwick in the neighbouring riding of Northumberland. That area was chosen because it meets the requirements: low incomes and excellent development possibilities.

The two areas of Dalhousie-Campbellton and Bathurst-Belledune have welcomed in the last few years new industries including Radio Engineering at Atholville, Restigouche Abattoir at Campbellton, CIL and Allied Chemicals at Dalhousie as well as a vast chemical and steel complex at Belledune.

Enlarged pulp and paper facilities will be provided at Atholville and Dalhousie, and the latter is also to have a new seaport.

New mineral deposits have recently been discovered in the area and large sums of money have been and are to be invested in their extraction, especially in the vicinity of Bathurst-Belledune and Upsalquitch.

However, the adjoining areas, including the town of Campbellton, which is a railway and commercial centre, do not yet fully participate in this new economic expansion.

And so this pilot area is most suitable for a concerted government effort in the field of

[Mr. Dubé.]

planning. As I said earlier, it presents the conditions required: a low income level, great development potential, recent industrial expansion and a population anxious to move ahead.

This desire of the population to participate actively in this pilot project is evident and very stimulating. Regional and local groups have been constituted rapidly and are very active at the moment.

The French-speaking group, CRAN, and the English-speaking group, NRDC, are meeting once a week on a regional basis. Furthermore, several of their local committees get together each month in various localities of the pilot area.

Those task forces have received the assistance of leaders, who have analysed the problems in their own regions and put forward concrete projects. Naturally, they expect action from the governments.

I was very pleased to learn last week that one of the pet projects of CRAN and NRDC, as well as of the local chambers of commerce, had been approved and that construction would start as early as July. I am referring to the announcement made by the minister of public works of New Brunswick with regard to the construction of a road section in the area between Saint-Quentin and Bathurst.

Provision had already been made besides, for that proposed section in clause 42 of the Fredericton agreement which reads as follows:

—Federal financial assistance for the construction of a road for the development of resources in a westerly direction from Saint-Quentin.

That proposed road, 74 miles long, which will cross an area rich in forest and mine resources, will contribute to development within the pilot area.

Other plans have already been submitted or will be submitted by the planning groups I just mentioned, namely CRAN and NRDC, as well as the chambers of commerce and others, as well as by myself, on various occasions.

But I would like to take advantage of the debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne to point out once again these projects to the attention of those who have the power to carry them out, and especially those who will be responsible for the implementation of projects in the pilot area, according to the Fredericton agreement I mentioned a moment ago.

The southern region of Restigouche constituency, through its geography and its economic situation, is particularly handicapped. I