

*Rural Development*

My final point refers to the role which can be played by young people. At the present time there is an exodus of young people from rural areas. This is happening for one reason, that there is a greater opportunity for them off the farms. What is really lacking is a concerted attempt to show young people that there is a future for them, not necessarily on farms but in rural areas, perhaps in other lines. There is very little in the way of leadership training programs available to them. I noticed in one of the many press releases I received from the minister's office that such a program was carried out in Alberta. That is the sort of example that is necessary, and the sort of initiative that is needed.

As I look down the concession lines of my riding I find that the average age of the farmers in my area is between 50 and 60. Most of the young people who were there have gone to work in factories operated by Canadian General Electric and Outboard Marine, mainly because no one suggested there were alternatives. They felt they had to remain on the family farm or go to work at these factories. There is actually a tremendous opportunity for these individuals if the necessary leadership is provided, and these people can in turn take advantage of the work of organizations such as 4-H clubs which are doing an invaluable job in rural areas.

I hope the role that young people can play and the advantages of participation on the part of residents will be developed as fully as possible within the framework of this bill which, as I said at the beginning, is a most imaginative and important one.

**Mr. Irving:** Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. I believe the hon. member said that a statement made by the hon. member for Grey-Bruce was false. I do not believe the hon. member for Peterborough wants to leave such a statement on the record.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. The hon. member knows that it is not unparliamentary to say that a statement is false, incorrect or inexact. What is unparliamentary is the suggestion that a statement is deliberately and intentionally false or incorrect. That is not what the hon. member said.

**Mr. Ed. Schreyer (Springfield):** Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I was not able to hear all the introductory remarks of the minister when he spoke at the second reading stage this afternoon. Like other members, I presume, I went to attend the committee on

agriculture only to find that it had been cancelled. That fact says little for the co-ordination of committees of this house and the work of this chamber itself.

• (7:50 p.m.)

I would assure the minister, however, that I have on many occasions in the past taken the time to read—with diligence, I hope—some of the speeches he has delivered to various organizations across the country, agricultural organizations, groups of businessmen, and so on. In this way one gets a pretty clear picture of the thinking of the minister with regard to the problem of rural poverty, rural rehabilitation and ways and means of improving standards of living and levels of income in rural parts of this country.

I hope the minister will consider some of the points I raise this evening and reply to them seriatim. It may well be that what I have to say was touched upon by the minister when speaking this afternoon, or by other hon. members. I would begin by saying that the ARDA legislation in the course of the past few years has become very popular, at least in concept, and few members, if any, would really want to be critical of it.

On the other hand, I think that while we are all enthused with the legislation and the concept behind it, some of us are less enthused than others. I am one of those who, after reading about and studying the problem with which this legislation is designed to try to cope, has become somewhat sceptical and pessimistic about whether the legislation has the scope and enough money behind it thus far to really grapple with the problem in depth.

I shall try to deal with some of the reasons for my having become sceptical and somewhat pessimistic in this regard. I would ask the minister whether the amount referred to in the legislation before us, namely \$50 million, is to be replenished annually, so there will be \$50 million available for expenditure each year. Is this to be on a revolving fund basis or not? We have no clear indication in this respect from reading the legislation itself.

Another question that arises is, how long will the ARDA legislation be applied on a special, designated area basis? In effect, at the present time it is applied on a sort of test area basis. I maintain that it is not right, and we cannot justify for very long applying this legislation on a highly selective basis across the country. I know that in the case of crop insurance, for example, for a few years it was