

*The Address—Mr. Stefanson*

by parliament for a long time. I am convinced that it will create tremendous benefits for agriculture and, in fact, for all community development. Those who poke fun at this today will be the laughing stock of tomorrow. Any legislation that requires agreement between provincial and federal governments often has a tendency to take longer to implement. I am likewise convinced that cooperation is forthcoming from the provinces in the implementation of this act. In my own province of Manitoba I know they have several projects in the planning stages and these will shortly be ready to be put into operation.

A.R.D.A. is an adjustment program and it emphasizes multiple use of our resources. It is part of a broader national program of price supports, farm credit, crop insurance and all the other activities of the provincial and federal governments that make up the agricultural legislation. In reality it is part of an over-all community development.

There are three sections to the act, the first of which provides for directing the use of resources to more profitable alternatives; another provides for the construction of physical works for such things as soil and water conservation projects. The other and perhaps the most important part deals with rural development projects including studies of resources of communities, possibilities for bringing industries and new business into communities, and such other projects that contribute to community development.

I can see that this act can have a tremendous impact on a riding such as the one I have the honour to represent, a riding which includes two large lakes, lake Winnipeg, lake Manitoba and other smaller lakes. It also has some of the most fertile land in the province. It has large areas of ranch land, particularly along the lakes, large tracts of marginal and submarginal land, large areas of forests, and vast areas which could be improved for community pastures. Many marshes are located in the area and there is also an abundance of game and wild life. There are many, many miles of beautiful sand beaches located on both the shores of lake Winnipeg and lake Manitoba, and also along some of the rivers and on some islands in lake Winnipeg. A large portion of the commercial fishing industry in the province of Manitoba is located in this area. Agriculture is mostly mixed farming. The area has several gypsum and limestone deposits.

From the description of the constituency one can readily see that A.R.D.A. will be a real challenge. It is, however, essential that members of municipal councils, chambers of commerce, farm organizations, women's organizations, service clubs, etc., take an active

interest in this act and come up with suggestions regarding what type of planning is most suited to their own environments.

I mentioned that the act had three sections. Under the first of these it is assumed that substantial areas of land now in agriculture can profitably be put to other uses. There will be a strong demand for livestock products in the years ahead and it is quite possible that it would be advisable to take some land now under cultivation for community pastures. Forestry, recreation and wild life uses of our lands also offer real opportunities throughout the country for raising the incomes of communities and for effecting better land use. An important activity under A.R.D.A. will be the redirection of land use.

Under the second category a great many projects can be undertaken to improve drainage, to conserve soil and to provide water supplies for farmers where the land resources are of good quality and where such additional works made their development economically feasible. Benefit-cost analyses will be made in such instances and one can foresee a broad application of this part of the act to the country as a whole.

The third section, that of rural development, is both new and challenging. Under this section communities will have to assess the resources at their disposal and come to some decision as to the types of development that would be most desirable. They may feel they need to attract small industry or activities of some type that provide a steady payroll within the community. For a town to be able to attract industry it needs a good water supply. The selection of projects made by a community should be based on a careful assessment of what the community feels it needs and upon the resources available to it.

It is of great importance that a good deal of planning take place at the grass roots because it would be futile to organize this type of activity from the top down. However, it is important that communities undertaking this kind of organizing and planning receive guidance and assistance from higher level of governments. At this time I wish to refer to page 5197 of *Hansard* of May 22, 1961. The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Hamilton) was speaking on Bill C-77, and he said:

1. While the program is focused mainly on farm people, it cannot be exclusively agricultural. Rural economies are no longer separate from town or urban economies, and the program must be one of area development embracing local centres of population as well as the farms surrounding them.

2. The program should be regarded and accepted as long run rather than short run since many of the problems to be encountered are structural rather than either cyclical or transitory.

3. The program should have two levels—a regional or local level; that is a local level within that region under the all-embracing framework of the