

*Supply—Forestry and Rural Development*

capital beyond the competence of individuals or groups to provide themselves. The success or failure of this ARDA concept will finally rest on the ability of the several hundred local ARDA groups across Canada to solve their own problems.

I could relate many pieces of evidence to show that farmers want to be independent, to show they have demonstrated that if given a little bit of leadership they can solve their own problems without great expenditures of public money. Mostly what is involved is a lack of information; mostly it is a question of marketing, not production; mostly it is a question that the world has moved on. For example, our agricultural businesses in Canada and the United States are both guilty of acting in a strait-jacket, of thinking that the only market for the farmers' products is in the local city. They cannot see the evidence that with our ability to produce far beyond the ability of the consumer to consume in our cities, our natural markets are no longer in our cities, are no longer in Canada, but are all over the world.

Here we have this ridiculous conundrum of two billion people in the world wanting what we can produce, and yet we are asking people who call themselves farmers to use their human and natural resources at quarter or half speed simply because there is no market in Canada. I am only trying to dramatize the fact that this is the place for the federal government, without any interference with provincial rights, to let the people of Quebec for example, know where the world needs something; and this is something that can be done through the responsible minister.

I suggest the minister should read the recent report accepted by the Ontario government, of the conference at Kemptonville two months ago. What was the first recommendation about agriculture in Ontario made in those reports to the provincial department of agriculture? It was to the effect that there is no answer for the farmer in Ontario, generally speaking, and that the richest farm province in our country will have no answer to these problems until the federal government sets national goals.

The national goal is not to kid the farmer that he can any longer save himself by increasing his efficiency. The national goal that must be first and foremost is that the world needs food and we have the people here who can produce it. The provinces which have no machinery to cope with this have to be asked and challenged to help meet

this national goal. The provinces have to be asked and challenged to get together.

Any person who goes through Gaspé today, who goes through New Brunswick, parts of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island and who does not realize the tremendous capacity of the people in those provinces to produce—people trained in everything they need to be trained to meet the world's needs, yet still living at a very low economic level—that person who cannot immediately see the opportunities should stop walking around, in order to save funeral expenses, and jump in the sea.

I feel very deeply about this because the institutional framework has been set up for ARDA. Governments have done a good job in setting up that institutional framework. All that is necessary is to get rid of this refuge of the B.N.A. Act; all that is necessary is to suggest the answer, and then wherever the constitutional responsibility lies, let that group move.

But going back to my original thesis, the success will depend on the full teamwork of the federal government, the provincial governments and the local people. Yes, the final success will depend on the local people, but in the beginning there has to be this concept, this idea to encourage, to drive, to get around all the difficulties of the federal government. Therefore my first proposal to the minister is that he should reconsider the statement he made three years ago when he said the responsibility lies on the provinces to make the proposals. Let him take his courage in his hands, see the market opportunities, and deliberately set out to achieve those objectives. Let him set a goal.

The second matter I want to mention has to do with the province of Quebec. There is no question in my mind that every Canadian recognizes the efforts made within a period of four or five years by two governments to set up the development area in Gaspé. It has been successfully established. I have talked to the officials down there. I do not think anyone would question their enthusiasm, their clear thinking, and the logic of what they have set up, but on questioning them closely they are ready to admit that in the Gaspé development, which is one of the best examples of what we can do between governments, working as a team, all they are concerned with is increasing productivity without any thought of the end product, which is marketing.

[Mr. Hamilton.]