

*Rural Development*

At first glance and in its present form I think the bill constitutes an infringement. I know it is comprehensive and written in good French. Research programs are a beginning and more will follow.

The provinces must have their say concerning those research programs. It seems very logical to me that the provinces should discuss the programs of research and investigation with the federal government, so as to maintain that spirit of co-ordination and discussion and so as not to leave the people of Quebec under the impression that the federal government is always imposing its wishes on the province.

That is precisely what the province of Quebec does not like, because it is related to research, to studies. Indeed, education belongs to Quebec. And then, it seems to me Quebec technicians and educators should also be able to meet the federal government technicians with regard to joint programs. Why should we not discuss educational programs in the same way?

That is all Quebec wants in order to protect itself. I wish to point out to the minister that not only should the provinces have a word to say about the matter, but they should also suggest what program they want implemented. In short, let them draw up the plans and present them to the federal government just as they do in the case of agricultural, drainage, or soil recovery programs. Then, no one could complain.

As for the advisory committees the minister mentioned, I believe it would be a good thing for each province to have one. But there again, the provincial advisory committee should not be made up of people imposed by the federal government, or subjected to its control directly or indirectly. It should be a truly provincial advisory committee.

I shall not dwell on the matter any longer for, as everyone else, I want the bill to pass as soon as possible. I may have a few questions about certain sections but, all in all, we are pleased. We are pleased because we do not shy away from progress, and we feel that this is a step forward for the ARDA program.

I hope the minister will adapt all those amendments, as was done in the past, when ARDA was passed, and that the rights and autonomy of the province of Quebec will be respected.

[Mr. Gauthier.]

• (8:30 p.m.)

[English]

**Mr. H. A. Olson (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, when the resolution was before the house a few days ago I had the opportunity of saying a few words about our opinion in respect of the amendments contained in Bill C-152. At that time I queried the change of the name from the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act to the rural development act, because it appeared that there was no useful purpose to this change except, as I suggested then, it made it a Liberal rather than a Conservative act. I objected to this because the name ARDA has become a household word across Canada. I objected to taking up the time of this house for the purpose of doing something as unnecessary as that.

The minister has now promised that he intends to move an amendment to clause 2 as soon as we reach consideration of it. As far as I am concerned, such an amendment will satisfy in large measure the objection I voiced when I spoke before. Let me say also that I admire the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Robichaud) for the good job he did in answering the questions we put to him at that time, in view of the fact that this act does not fall within the purview of his department.

We were pleased to hear the minister make his promise to move an amendment because the contents of this bill as it now stands are certainly not in keeping with the statements made over and over again by the Minister of Fisheries. The hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) said on at least five occasions that the name ARDA was going to be retained. Some of us were very unhappy in our attempts to reconcile that threat with the contents of this bill. However, apparently that difficulty will be resolved when we reach our consideration in committee of clause 2 as a result of the promised amendment.

The hon. member for Timiskaming referred to the Western Canada Reclamation Association and said he did not know what it was, but he then proceeded to read some of the contents of its publication. I think the contents of that publication represent a clear manifestation of the very wide horizons and farsightedness that association has regarding the reclamation and conservation of soil and water. That association receives far too little recognition in Canada when one considers the useful work it performs. It is constantly concerning itself with long-range policies in an attempt to make sure that our soil and water