

The Address—Mr. Nesdoly

available. Perhaps I should hasten to say, to be completely fair, that maybe we are not entitled to \$625,000 because our population is so low and our unemployment rate is not as high as in some parts of Canada.

I believe that some formula could be developed so that areas, provinces or constituencies could know in advance what their allocation would be. In this way the people would know exactly where they stood and would not feel they were being discriminated against by the government. I feel it is imperative that the government come up with a formula which will take into account population and unemployment rates.

If there are problems of regional disparity in Canada, it is because the federal government has helped create them through its indefinite steps, its procrastination and its "pork-barrelmanship" on some occasions. I say pork-barrelmanship because I have ample reason to believe there have been occasions when grants have been assigned for certain projects and have gone into areas which the government thought would garner it votes. I have a strong suspicion this is what happened before the last federal election. It is quite evident that the manoeuvre did not work too well.

Not only should DREE programs be decentralized considerably; the whole question of providing jobs for Canadians in depressed areas and in high unemployment areas should be decentralized to a greater degree, because I feel the bureaucrats in Winnipeg should not be making the decisions for northwestern Saskatchewan. Decisions for Saskatchewan should be made in Saskatchewan and not in Winnipeg or Ottawa as has been the case in the past in respect of the Local Initiatives Program. Because of the high rate of welfare and unemployment, our areas should be getting special consideration in order to provide for a society of justice and equity, words that have been so glibly thrown about in this chamber.

There were two local initiative projects which were rejected and which I think are worthy of mention in this debate. One I should like to refer to is the Butte St. Pierre project. Some years ago in northwestern Saskatchewan we had a priest, Father Imhoff, who is perhaps one of the greatest painters of religious works of art the west has ever produced. He has painted the inside of many churches. Many of his paintings are in a church at Butte St. Pierre. Owing to increased farm size, and for other reasons, the church at Butte St. Pierre is no longer being used. People in the neighbouring town of Paradise Hill have raised a considerable sum of money for the purpose of moving the church at Butte St. Pierre to Paradise Hill. They have asked for a modest LIP grant, but their request has been turned down. This would also have provided a considerable amount of work for the unemployed people in the area.

• (1720)

Mr. Peters: There is no sex or marijuana in that project.

Mr. Nesdoly: The government rejected the project and said that funds were not available. The same is true of the Loon Lake recreation centre which was built by the people in the area. They raised thousands of dollars and originally provided much volunteer labour. Now they

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want to complete the recreation centre and have asked for a modest grant. This centre could also be used by the native people, because there is an Indian reserve adjacent to Loon Lake. Again, this project met with an outright rejection.

As I mentioned earlier, we do have a uranium mine in my constituency in a place called Uranium City. At one time it was a thriving city indeed. That was back in the 1950s when at its peak it had a population of 7,000 which later declined to 1,700. It was one of the original uranium mines in Canada. The mining company is a Crown corporation, Eldorado Nuclear Limited. It has been the cause of some concern in our area for the last year or two. For one thing, the current decline of jobs in Uranium City is creating hardship for many families.

I believe it is the duty of the federal government and Eldorado Nuclear to provide economic conditions that will be of benefit to the people who live in Uranium City. I think the government should have a more aggressive uranium sales and stockpiling policy which would assure throughout the year a reasonable level of employment in Uranium City.

While jobs are disappearing in Uranium City, the government has provided \$29.5 million to Denison Mines Limited, one of the corporate welfare bums, to stockpile uranium. It would be interesting to know just what has been happening to uranium production in Uranium City. Is uranium production by a Crown-owned company being sacrificed in order to bolster the private sector of our uranium mining industry, namely, Denison Mines? I point out, by the way, that the former chairman of the board of Denison Mines is a man named Stephen Roman who was a Progressive Conservative candidate in a Toronto riding.

Furthermore, I feel that Eldorado should be purchasing high-grade ore from small claim owners. There are many small claim owners in Uranium City, and some very rich small veins of ore. Eldorado should be able to buy this high-grade ore from the small claim owners and process it on their behalf. This would provide employment to some people who are currently unemployed in Uranium City. It appears that perhaps the government is interested in protecting Denison Mines whose largest mine, I understand, is at Elliot Lake—and the Elliot Lake seat is presently held by a Liberal member.

In conclusion, I would simply state that for the last 23 years the Meadow Lake constituency has been held by "liberatives", meaning Liberal or Conservative members. These Members of Parliament stumped around the constituency saying that their government would build railroads in the area. That is what the people in my area have been told for the last 23 years. I am thinking particularly of the railroad from the town of Meadow Lake connecting up at Grand Centre, Alberta. In 23 years of railroad building not a single inch of track has been laid down, and now it is proposed to abandon another 250 miles of railroad. I want to add that some people in the Goodsoil-Pierceland area have to haul their grain to market 50 or 60 miles away.

For years the Liberals and the Conservatives have told the people, "We will try to provide you with television service in the far north". These people are still waiting for television. For years members of these two parties have