

Regional Development Incentives Act

to welcome Canada's new economic czar. I listened carefully to what the minister said when outlining his program. I now feel that the discretionary power he recognizes as so dangerous is absolutely essential to the performance of his task. There is no doubt that in accepting this task the minister is going to make his life extremely difficult, because talking about how much money has been spent in an area will not wash any more. The only thing that will be important will be results, and he will stand or fall on his ability to correct the great disparities that exist in Canada.

The minister has complete power to act, and I shall commence my remarks by saying that I wish him well with those powers. I hope he will get the co-operation of his colleagues because, if he does not, they will break his heart. The job of members of this party is quite clear. It is not to carp about the details of the legislation, or perhaps even to make suggestions to the minister. It is to see that he gets results; to stay with him until he gets results, and to hold him responsible for results in the depressed areas of the country. This, of course, is what we have always talked about. This is what responsible government is all about. This is what responsible ministries are all about—not excuses, not the language of the bill, not reasons that things cannot be done, but the opportunity to do them and an accounting to parliament concerning the doing of them.

I wish to point out some of the pitfalls that the minister will face. We recognize that aid on a large scale will be necessary, yet if we take a look at the estimates for this purpose we find there is no increase in the current fiscal year. Thus we may well ask the minister, "How are you going to do it? Who is going to give you the tools to do your job? Are you going to persuade your colleagues of the importance of the task ahead of you, or will they let you be the fall guy when the money is not forthcoming so you will have to make the excuses on their behalf?"

The other thing that is vital is insistence upon full employment. This is not the first time the minister has heard this argument from me. If the minister is going to get industry into the Maritimes, into Manitoba or Northern Ontario, it may mean that some industries will have to leave central Canada, and when that happens there will be an awful lot of screaming. The only way to ensure that that kind of anger does not occur, to ensure that the policy is not one of begging your neighbour, is to see that you have full

employment in central Canada. The prosperity of the developing areas depends to a large extent on what happens to the developed, highly industrialized area of Canada. You cannot separate one from the other. Unless the minister insists upon full employment policies, I am very much afraid that even with the best of intentions and most energetic will, the program cannot succeed. Therefore, I think it is essential for the minister to insist upon this, as we have in the past and as we will continue to insist.

As the program proceeds, we will be looking at the question of grants to the private sector. We are not averse to seeing sizeable expenditures made in order to develop areas, but what we do question is what appears to be the rather one-sided approach that this aid be given only through private entrepreneurs. There is not a single word in the legislation about the establishment of crown corporations. There is not a word about the government going into business itself. After all, this is bribery on a massive scale. We are talking about the provision of \$1 million for 33 jobs. Why don't we go into business ourselves if we are prepared to spend that kind of money? Surely, we are capable of doing that?

There is no sense in arguing about who will get the money because, according to this legislation everything is discretionary. The minister has responsibility for everything. I give notice that we will be examining the decisions he makes, and will extend our criticisms or congratulations as the cases warrant. If we look at what the government has done in the past in terms of aiding industry we find that the Vickers Corporation was one of the main recipients of government charity, with rather disastrous results in the long run. Devco was another beneficiary, again with disastrous results for the people of the area. Now, we have Erco, which has received government benefit, and we have an extreme pollution problem. I ask hon. members who are so sold on private enterprise, how much worse could any government enterprise have done?

Mr. Deachman: What about the government of Saskatchewan?

Mr. Saltsman: The government of Saskatchewan will go down in history when the Liberal party's name is forgotten because it pioneered things your government hadn't the vision to see. You have been living off the capital of the government of Saskatchewan ever since. So, you hold your Smart-Alec