

*Rural Development*

distinction. Evidently it is within a predominantly rural area. The programs which the hon. member has just mentioned are covered by other parts of the federal-provincial rural development agreement. They come under Part II, covering land usage, Part III rehabilitation, and Part V rural development areas. I do not think the hon. member would render any service to the Indians or to the reserves by putting them in a special class. They are already covered by the general agreement, which I feel is much better than trying to be specific.

**Mr. Thomas (Middlesex West):** On April 19 the minister issued a news release outlining the agreement which had been reached with the province of Ontario, stating that \$1½ million was to be spent in the 11 eastern counties in a five-year drainage program. Is it possible under Bill C-151 to extend this sort of help to the Caradoc reserve in Middlesex county?

**Mr. Sauvé:** It is possible under the general federal-provincial rural agreement, paragraph 11 of which says:

The province may apply ARDA programs to Indian lands and Indian people. In the event that Indians are involved in a program the federal government will negotiate special cost-sharing arrangements to the extent that Indians are involved.

Then there is part II covering land use and farm adjustment, Part III rehabilitation, and Part VIII soil and water conservation. All of these various programs that come under the general agreement would cover the specific case the hon. member has mentioned.

**Mr. Nielsen:** But it does not cover all Indians.

**Mr. Sauvé:** Well, you have the problem of the Yukon and the Northwest Territories which I have mentioned already, but the Indians in Ontario would be covered.

**Mr. Herridge:** Mr. Chairman, because of the amendment before us, the only way I can bring myself in order is to say I am speaking for an area where the last Indian died ten years ago. I agree with the minister. I quite understand the hon. member's good intention: He wants to make certain that the Indians in his constituency are covered. But by accepting this amendment we would actually restrict the agreement. I rather like the idea of dealing with areas, rather than people as such, under the agreement.

I am rising to focus attention on a particular area which has some particular problems. Clause 5 reads:

For the purposes of this act,

(a) a comprehensive rural development program is a program, consisting of several development projects, that is designed to promote the social and economic development of a special rural development area and to increase income and employment opportunities and raise living standards in the area, and that makes provision for participation by residents of the area in the carrying out of the program;

I cannot for a moment suggest that I represent a constituency which is economically depressed. I represent a very prosperous riding, which is prosperous because of the hard work, industry and intelligence of the inhabitants, but it has a certain problem.

At present the projects under the Columbia river treaty are being built under the direction of the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority, and many people are beginning to realize one of the major problems involved. The B.C. Hydro and Power Authority offers a property holder, be he a farmer, businessman or what have you, a set price for his property.

This set price does not include detailed items of the value of buildings, land, etc. It is a lump sum—

**The Deputy Chairman:** Order.

**Mr. Herridge:** I shall put myself in order immediately, Mr. Chairman.

**The Deputy Chairman:** I must inform members of the committee that we have not disposed of the amendment with reference to Indian reserves. Perhaps the hon. member for Kootenay West would reserve his remarks until later on when we return to clause 5 as such.

**Mr. Alkenbrack:** Is the amendment pertaining to clause 5?

**The Deputy Chairman:** To paragraph (b) of clause 5.

**Mr. Stewart:** Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the hon. member who proposed the amendment wishes to persist in it. I have the impression he has been assured by what has been said, so that the amendment is not necessary to accomplish the very good purposes he has in mind.

**Mr. Thomas (Middlesex West):** Certainly, Mr. Chairman, I do not wish to delay the work of the committee, and with the assurance of the minister—