

in spending these amounts we make available to them.

As far as our constitution is concerned, when we say that it must be renewed, changed and amended so as to deal with the respective jurisdictions of the provinces and of the federal government, it clearly shows, I think, that a thorough study of the constitution is necessary in order to introduce the amendments which are required in a great many areas.

The minister told us earlier that the Canadian Advisory Council he had set up was at work and was doing a tremendous job. This is an important and necessary body which will help considerably the minister to reach his own objectives and those of his department.

But there again, Mr. Speaker, what would be the use of the Canadian Advisory Board giving advice and making suggestions to the minister if he lacks the constitutional power to implement them? Therefore, I repeat that the minister often finds himself in false situations and I say that the delay in implementing the programs under ARDA is precisely the result of the constitutional conflict between the provinces and the federal government. I say, therefore, that the time has come, in my opinion, to think of giving in that area joint jurisdiction to the provinces and the federal government to try to pursue the objectives of ARDA more fully and more efficiently.

As far as the ARDA legislation is concerned—I think that the minister mentioned it earlier and I also stress that point—I feel that we should set up priorities. In Quebec, a lot has been done. There is talk about the Lower St. Lawrence Development Board, but for the last three years our people in the lower St. Lawrence region have been studying the situation, experts have been trying to promote social action, social education, and bring together the possibilities of our natural and industrial resources in order to work out an over-all plan. That was called a pilot project.

● (5:40 p.m.)

This pilot project has obviously entailed considerable investments and expenditure. I think that it may serve also in other areas, not only in Quebec, but elsewhere in Canada. If this legislation is to be implemented and taxpayers enabled to see its results, priorities will have to be taken into account, and every county has its priorities.

Supply—Forestry and Rural Development

We are now told in some countries: Set up an economic council which will make representations to provincial authorities—in the province of Quebec, it is the only body entitled to make recommendations on rural development, on area development—and then, we will undertake studies.

Therefore, it may take three years to perform the studies and we will not have any practical plan, under the ARDA legislation, to implement in the interests of all taxpayers.

I still believe, Mr. Chairman, that the inhabitants or taxpayers of a specific area are still much better aware of their own needs and that their advice should be sought in order to establish priorities in depressed and under-developed areas which would especially benefit from ARDA.

Here is an instance. During the past 4 or 5 years, we have been working to obtain a marina in Pointe-au-Pic. We have an excellent location to build it and, during the summer, we see hundreds of sailing boats which cannot make fast, because the necessary facilities are not available.

For a long time now, we have asked ARDA officials to build us a marina, and their only reply has been: Put up 50 per cent, and we will put up the rest. Now, I think that if we proceed in this way, we will get practical and necessary results in those areas where the need is greatest.

I shall close my remarks immediately, for I know that the minister would like to see his estimates passed before six o'clock. Nevertheless, he should avail himself of the survey made of this pilot area by the Lower St. Lawrence Development Board and ask the provinces to speed up their activities, in brief, to show leadership for the implementation of immediate priorities.

If more studies and expert advice are always required, it will take three or four years before the minister, with the co-operation of the provinces, can manage to establish projects that are absolutely essential to the economic survival of our rural areas.

Mr. Chairman, that is all I had to say at this stage. I say to the minister that he can rely on our co-operation, because we know that ARDA is an essentially social legislation. We shall co-operate with the authorities in order to make it easier to administer as soon as possible. In addition, the minister can be assured of the co-operation of members on this side of the house when he introduces projects for the benefit of our people.