

*Establishment of Industry Department*

We know of course, as the late President Roosevelt said, that governments act under the pressures put on them and that the news media, the newspapers, which largely represent public opinion are too well centralized, and a car accident will get a bigger headline than 100 people out of work.

We realize, however, that this government forges ahead and I will say that the greatest criticism that could be directed against the federal government is that it is far removed from the less developed and hard to reach areas. But, in view of all the legislative measures presented to the house, it is easy to see that an effort is being made to change the situation and to deal with the problems of the less developed areas by helping them through various programs dealing with decentralization and area development, through tax concessions to industry, winter works, a department of agriculture for eastern Canada and special assistance to the Atlantic region. Finally, we greet today the new department of industry.

One knows that in less developed areas, and especially in those where my constituency is located, industry is faced with serious and particular problems. Industry is a family concern—everyone knows that—and in view of the legacies, succession duties and income tax, of course, it is often hard to get enough money for the current operations as well as for long term investments, to modernize and keep up with fast-changing technology.

On the other hand, the problems that face our regional industry reflect on the industry of municipalities and also result in numerous difficulties for the farming industry because, on the one hand, there is not enough vitality, because we are unable to follow the technical developments and also because of the lack of long term financing facilities for necessary improvements. We do not make enough progress to use manpower available on the market and we see our young people leaving the country for the large centres, thus depriving agriculture of its natural market for its products in depressed areas.

To illustrate those facts, I cannot do any better than read to you an extract of an article by Mr. Lorenzo Pare, former president of the press gallery here, in *L'Action* of March 29; I quote:

The village closing round the steeple, against a background of mountains along the seashore. A community united through work and virtue. That is how tourists discover our old and picturesque establishments which lend a charm to the lower St. Lawrence. This is the idyllic picture which causes our politicians to be enraptured by the way of life in all those counties. That is the poetry

[Mr. Gendron.]

that touches all our hearts, when we are still so near to our origins bound up in the soil, while present hardships make us turn with nostalgia to the past.

The realities of this garden of Eden are, in fact, poverty, destitution, economic stagnation, depopulation and emigration.

Supplier of men who have vitalized our whole province, centre of our large families, this huge area, more than half as large as Belgium, is unable to feed its children at present.

Well, in the past, as a general rule, for the appropriation of funds which might bring about economic development, the preliminary and main condition was the yield of the investment. However, in view of that basic principle, some depressed areas could not always justify the economic yield of investments, while the wealthier municipalities could do so, with the result that we wound up in a vicious circle where those who had plenty were given more, while those who had nothing were given nothing.

I think that throughout its legislation, and more particularly by means of Bill C-74 concerning the establishment of a department of industry, the government is trying to get out of that vicious circle, so that depressed areas would be allowed to develop normally, and all talents which are found there and often feel frustrated would be allowed to play their part in society, and finally the potential natural resources would be developed so as to contribute to the growth of the nation. I think that objective can be met through co-operation with the provinces, municipalities and regional economic development boards.

I think that if the province of Quebec had to depend solely on the hon. members opposite as her champions, there might be some reason for concern, because they helplessly witnessed, in their own government—and they have my sympathy for that—the centralizing of government in the hands of one man, which created a congestion and brought about an almost unequalled exhibition of the art of sitting on a fence.

I think we can quote, since they apply to municipalities, the provinces and the central government, the words spoken by Mr. Kennedy in his inaugural address: "We shall not fear to co-operate; we ought not to co-operate out of fear".

I think we should indicate that we are ready to co-operate, that our first care is to help the unemployed and the underdeveloped areas, because nobody would deny the need for a co-ordinating action in the whole country on the part of the central government, if we really want to have a balanced development from coast to coast, which will give an