

Regional Development Incentives Act

We have never heard in past years about the difficulties faced by the people of northern Ontario, and we have heard little about the people in other parts of Canada.

We have now been given a plan for regional economic expansion which will give us the opportunity to develop certain parts of this country which need development and which perhaps have been neglected in the past. That is the importance of this legislation. Now our hon. friend comes along and says: Why not Saskatchewan? The ironic part of the motion before the House is that only yesterday the minister came into the House and announced that two of the major cities in Saskatchewan were to be designated as special areas. What more do they want? Are they talking about welfare? It would appear that the hon. member for Regina East is talking about welfare, because he said a while ago that we need more public works projects and more Indian and Métis programs. What on earth does he want? Is he talking about regional economic expansion, or about welfare?

We must try to develop the whole country. We cannot develop every single community. We must select certain areas for special treatment, perhaps those which have been neglected in the past, in an attempt to bring them up to the standard we want for Canada. My whole riding needs to be developed; there is no doubt about that. We are all trying hard to see that it is developed, but we can hardly expect that every community in the riding of Cochrane will benefit.

Mr. Nystrom: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. It seems to me that the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Stewart) should be discussing the topic covered by this motion and not wandering off into different areas of the country. He should be talking about the topic at hand.

Mr. Speaker: The point made by the hon. member is well taken. Unfortunately, I missed the first part of this very interesting debate. I have been here for a few minutes and I have the impression that perhaps what has been debated up to now is not what is before the House. Hon. members know that before us at the present time is a Motion for the Production of Papers. According to precedent, the only subject which can be discussed at this time is not whether there should be assistance to Saskatchewan, the area of Cochrane or any other particular place, but whether certain documents should be produced. The limits of debate on a Motion for the Production of

[Mr. Stewart (Cochrane).]

Papers are very narrow. Indeed, I have often thought it very difficult to make a 20-minute or a 15-minute speech on such a subject. If I continue, I will be making a 20-minute ruling on the subject.

Let me say to the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Stewart), and other hon. members who may wish to speak during this hour, that the only point we should be considering at this time is whether or not these papers should be produced.

Mr. Stewart (Cochrane): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I note that your ruling is very similar to my suggestion at the beginning of my remarks. I find it rather difficult to understand how we can debate the production of something which does not exist. We have already been told that the papers do not exist, yet the hon. member for Regina East insists that they be produced. I do not know whether he wants the Parliamentary Secretary to perform some kind of hat trick; but if the papers do not exist, they cannot be brought forward.

● (5:40 p.m.)

Obviously, the sponsor of the motion is concerned that in that fictitious correspondence there would be something to indicate that one or another area of Saskatchewan should be designated. This is what seems to bother him. I should like to make the point that we cannot possibly consider each and every community in Canada for special designation. Certain areas have to be singled out for that, because the idea of such designation is not to give welfare but to develop an area for the future and bring in new industry: where you have a one-industry town, for example, you can bring in other industries so that the people do not have to depend strictly on one industry for their living. This is the important part of the legislation.

It seems to me that the hon. member for Regina East should be aware of that and in agreement with it, since not only this government but previous governments gave special consideration to Saskatchewan and the Prairies. But now the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) has given special consideration to Saskatchewan by designating two cities there as special zones. Does the hon. member know what that means? It means that they are not only designated in the way other areas are designated, but they are given special consideration so that even primary industries in most cases can be considered for special help from the federal government. It seems to me this is far