

success in all he undertakes to develop this rural development program in Canada, and to secure the participation of the provincial and municipal governments, the organizations and the persons willing to work in this sort of program and do something for Canada at the same time.

● (4:30 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Latulippe: Mr. Chairman, I welcome the opportunity at this stage, to make a few remarks about the department responsible for ARDA. We are very happy that this legislation was passed, but less satisfied with its results, because in Quebec, and specially in my area, those results are anything but outstanding. When ARDA was introduced, it was mainly for the development of farming, the rural areas and the marginal areas. The benefits of ARDA were expected to help many areas and several sectors of our economy. Now, it is realized that the sectors where ARDA was expected to operate are more and more limited. And the higher the expectations of the people through ARDA, the more bitter their disappointment.

My constituency, one of the largest in Canada, which comprises about 100 communities, lies within a designated area, but up to now, since ARDA has been set up, I do not think we have received a single penny from this agency.

Committees have been formed in several communities, where farmers, workers and boards of trade have studied ARDA programs. With ARDA assistance, it had been planned to develop various types of agricultural, touristic and industrial facilities in those underdeveloped areas, but we have come to realize we are powerless to do anything.

One can realize that the whole administration lies with the province of Quebec and that the federal minister has nothing to say on those questions. However, since we pay taxes, I feel that we should have our say in the matter.

Such is the situation in the province of Quebec now, that the federal minister cannot even have his say or express his opinion; in fact, he can no longer suggest some projects or some developments he would wish achieved. As he cannot make such suggestions, perhaps we had better withdraw from that joint program.

If the province of Quebec wants to go it alone, well let her foot the bill. The federal government is prepared to pay its share, that

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is 50 per cent, but the minister is just allowed to pay, to sign cheques and to hold his tongue.

One can well realize that nothing can be done, in any respect, in the province of Quebec, regarding all the necessary developments. Roads should be built around lakes to make them more accessible to tourists and improve fishing, hunting and camping conditions there, but nothing can be done because the province of Quebec has decided not to contribute. It will contribute only for provincial parks, in other words, for what is exclusively its own.

There are no provincial parks in my district nor are there any elsewhere in the province. Yet, millions of dollars are spent on provincial parks. And those who can benefit from the ARDA developments in certain parks will be found only amongst the people who can afford to live it up, so to speak, in short amongst the people who can pay \$100.00 a day or even more for the pleasure of catching trout in those lakes or rivers, while members of the common herd cannot afford to do so. And so, the parks in the province of Quebec are used only by a few rich or extravagant individuals who can afford to visit them and benefit from what has been done with the taxpayers' money, with the money paid by the little fellow.

I think that ARDA should be extended a little in every constituency. All the money should not be spent in one spot without doing anything elsewhere. It should be spread and the minister should have a word to say about it.

In the province of Quebec, ARDA has not accomplished much, I assure you. Millions of dollars have been spent and I think that the budget this year amounts to 61 million dollars. Millions of dollars have been spent and there is nothing to show. Where does the money go? A good part of it is certainly spent for administration but the remaining is not useful and develops nothing among the people. The people who pay taxes are entitled to their share and to live as anyone else. There are several beautiful spots in the area where I live which could be developed with contributions from ARDA.

If the principle of ARDA legislation had been what it should have been when it was passed, we could get certain benefits. But there is no benefit for several constituencies in the province of Quebec, in fact, very few ridings have benefited from ARDA up to now and the future will tell what it is all about. I