

*Regional Development*

between southern Ontario and northern Ontario. It seems that we get the disadvantages of one at the same time as the disadvantages of the other. We never seem to come within the charmed circle of being called northern Ontario or southern Ontario. When northern Ontario is referred to we are ruled out because the line is drawn to our north; when southern Ontario is referred to we are ruled out again because the line is drawn to our south. This is just one of the problems that our regions have to deal with and is particularly apparent in connection with establishing the lines for the incentives plan.

When a delegation was here recently, Mr. Speaker, in connection with a request to include the Parry Sound district under the regional incentives program, it was very obvious that the minister either had been badly misinformed about the situation in central Ontario or that the figures provided him were incomplete. Incidentally, I am referring this directly to the motion because it lies in the same area and immediately adjacent to the one now under discussion. The minister said to the delegation which came from Parry Sound, "You have not got too much to complain about. I have the figures here and you people have had 17 new industries in that area, creating 400 new jobs so what are you complaining about?" It just happens, Mr. Speaker, that the area he was referring to was not anywhere near the location of the people in the delegation. In fact, the whole of the Parry Sound district had not received any benefit under the previous plan.

● (5:20 p.m.)

Having based his conclusions on faulty figures, as the minister undoubtedly did in this connection, he ignored his having received false or incomplete information and said, "Well, this is too bad, but we have drawn our lines and must abide by them. If I make one change, I am dead and the expansion program will fall to pieces." I do not think this is the case. Though the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion may have drawn these lines, that should not make him intransigent on the question of reconsidering them. Cases involving difficulties will be put to him, although I do not think there will be as many as he thinks. Nevertheless, certain areas contiguous to the ones which have been spoken about could logically be included in the program. I think it is bad policy, bad politics and bad public relations for the minister to adopt his present attitude and say, "I am not going to change; I do not care if your argument is

[Mr. Aiken.]

good or bad because I have made up my mind and I am not going to change these lines for three years. I do not care if Lanark, Renfrew, Parry Sound or the Muskoka region can show me that there is a real need: That is not important. What is important is that I have drawn my lines, and there they shall stay."

That is a bad attitude and has already begun to work to the disadvantage of those regions the hon. member mentioned. I say that because our rate of economic growth in those regions is very slow. The rates of unemployment were high enough, the wages of workers low enough and the volume of industry within the area was such that this region, and I refer particularly to Parry Sound and Muskoka, was designated under the previous plan. The previous formula might very well be adopted again. As one crosses what I call the central Ontario band of country which lies south of the Mattawa and French rivers and north of the Severn river and the Trent waterway, one will find the situation does not improve. This region is as underdeveloped as most regions which have been included. We think it ridiculous that North Bay, which is near the ridings of both hon. members involved in this debate, should be designated, while Parry Sound district is not. That city has all kinds of industry. Sudbury, which is adjacent to the north end of my riding, is very well developed industrially. The city's entire economy is based on the development of the region. It has full employment and there is no real need for this plan in that area.

As one goes farther east, one comes to Montreal and Quebec City. I do not think they should really be classed as underdeveloped, yet the area lying between those two cities in Quebec, as well as the region immediately around Montreal has been designated. This is a bitter pill for the people of central Ontario, and particularly for the people of Parry Sound, to swallow. Just two weeks ago Parry Sound lost a \$15 million glass factory. We had heard the announcement in July that the Glaverbel Glass Company of Belgium was to come to Parry Sound. At least, it was to be established within this central Ontario region near the town of Parry Sound, and we all thought that the decision was final. Unfortunately, after the new regional incentives lines were drawn, the company found that for a number of reasons it preferred to establish an industrial plant near Quebec City. Of course, we are glad that this plant has come to Canada and that Canadians will benefit by being employed in