

*Rural Development*

view to making available to them the advantages of ARDA or those of the new Bill C-152.

[English]

**Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (MacLeod):** Mr. Speaker, there are a few points which need emphasizing in connection with this legislation. First of all, I want to know from the minister if in arranging these agreements with the provinces there is any thought of expropriating land. I want to know the answer to that question before I vote in favour of this legislation. I want it clearly understood that there is going to be no attempt to expropriate land owned by the so-called small operators. In so far as this program is concerned, it is true the small farms do present a problem. When I refer to "small farms" I am referring to farms comprising half a section of land or in some areas even a quarter section. There are no criteria that the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Sauv ) can produce, or anyone else for that matter, to show that all these so-called small farms are uneconomic. The person operating such a farm may wish to live in the country and may have a supplementary income. In those instances the farm is operated to very good advantage.

One of the objectives of this measure might be to expropriate land in order to assemble a unit. Any such attempt would be going contrary to the interests of the small operator and against the wishes of those interested in agriculture. It would meet with serious objections from the farmers themselves and from all those who have a lot of confidence in the ARDA legislation. Like the hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Horner), I feel that if we develop our resources under ARDA we will automatically begin to eliminate poverty. You cannot look at one without the other. If you take an area that has extensive resources and develop those resources, you are going to create greater employment for the farmers of that particular area. On the other hand, if you set out to operate your programs only in those areas where there is poverty you are going to be just sweeping in the corners in so far as solving the problems this act was designed to solve is concerned.

In other words, you must look at the resources first and rely upon a certain amount of internal migration. The outcome of this will be that the resources will be developed and employment will be supplied. I have a feeling that the minister, as a result of his surroundings and his understanding of

[Mr. Clermont.]

these problems, has given too much emphasis to the question of poverty. We all want to eliminate poverty. I am certain it can be eliminated if the resources of our great dominion are developed. The first consideration, therefore, should be the development of resources. This should be the touchstone. It was the touchstone when ARDA was first implemented, and that should not be changed in order to give consideration to the question of poverty.

Poverty is an important problem, and by all means we want to eliminate it. However, this can only be done if we take the natural resources and combine them in terms of units which will support the population in the area concerned. The citizens with low incomes are now to be the touchstone of this particular measure, as I read it. I am wondering whether the minister, in addition to the answer I have requested about the expropriation of land, can give to the house the orientation he intends to adopt with regard to the agreements with the provinces.

Can the minister say that the steps which the provinces will take will be to develop resources rather than to eliminate pockets of poverty? As I have said, we want the pockets of poverty eliminated but we do want an approach that will develop the resources of our nation and not only the mineral resources but those that have to do with the farming industry.

While these resources should be developed, I want to say too that the Minister of Forestry, who is going to be the minister in charge of this program, should include Indian reserves in the program. I have some 6,000 or 8,000 Indians in my riding. I want a program started on these Indian reserves. These are places where the people have low incomes. They have their Indian reserve lands, and I am certain that any program that could be developed with the help of the federal government would be welcomed by them. Since they are natives of our dominion they should not be overlooked, but no mention is made of them in this legislation. In other words, here is another measure which seeks to correct poverty but does not mention Indian reserves. These reserves are the areas in which you will find the greatest poverty in this great dominion of ours.

I say again that I would not be in favour of this legislation unless it is the intention of the minister to direct some of his attention to the solution of the problem of poverty through