

The Address—Mr. Malone

overnight. We need to define a number of important criteria. What industries? For starters I would suggest the fishing industry, the forest industry, the petroleum industry, that is oil and gas, the mining industry, and pipelines.

As I have already noted, we hope to have the co-operation of the provinces in working out the mechanics of attaining such an objective. In that connection I can report that I have already started the process; I have already raised the question in a preliminary way with some provincial premiers and provincial ministers of industry. I hope to continue these discussions across Canada both at the ministerial and official levels. I believe this policy initiative will in the long term be one of the most important measures taken in a series of measures aimed at providing for Canadians greater control over their domestic economy, of providing greater participation for Canadians in working out the priorities and objectives of their economic development, and greater participation for Canadians in the benefits of that economic development.

Mr. Arnold Malone (Battle River): Mr. Speaker, I feel very privileged in having the opportunity to rise in this chamber and make my maiden address. It will not be, perhaps, as flowery as the one earlier today and might even be considered morre like a cauliflower, but I look forward to my experiences in this distinguished place among the kind of people who have contributed so much to the traditions of this House. I look forward to serving the constituents of the Battle River area, situated in the province of Alberta. This area was served by the late Harry Kuntz, who passed away last November. There is one thing I can say as a tribute to Mr. Kuntz: if there was anything that stood out in his character, it was that he was a humble man. During my very short experience as a member of this House, I have realized that this is at least one tribute that I hope to retain in serving the people of Battle River.

There are a number of things one might speak about in a maiden speech. I should like to spend some of my time referring to specific problems in my constituency, but I should like to take up most of my allotted time speaking about a subject I consider of tremendous importance not only to the people of my area but to mankind as a whole. I refer to the lack of status as far as agriculture is concerned. I will deal first with a specific problem, which is not a small problem to those who are faced with it. In the east end of my constituency, television reception is very inferior to that received elsewhere in the mainstream of Canadian life. If television were only a source of entertainment, or an entertaining media, one might be inclined to ask, "So what?" The fact is that television provides far more than just entertainment. It is a means by which children develop language and a way in which people learn to conceptualize ideas and learn about the country in which they live.

While the area of which I speak does not have the density of population of many other areas—and I concede that there are no major centres there from which stations spring—the fact is that there is a void in the development of language and culture among the young. We, as Canadians as a whole, cannot allow such a void to exist anywhere in this country. A few days ago reference was made in the

[Mr. Gillespie.]

House to our senior citizens being a class or group of people who do not receive the status they should receive in Canada. I asked the minister responsible for the sending out of old age pension cheques whether any consideration was being given to removing the term "old age". His response was that never had any cheques returned because they were called old age pension cheques. I am sure no one in this House will return our cheques because they carry the words "Government of Canada".

● (1650)

Madam Speaker, I think it is very important that we reflect upon this class and realize it has earned its status through years of dedication to this country. I believe this country ought to thank them with a language which denotes a higher degree of respect than the words "old age". I cannot think of anything more insulting than the expression "old age", lest it be having to live in the glowing embers wing of Sunset's Glow old folks' home. These citizens command our respect. For a few moments, before getting to the major thesis of my maiden speech, I should like to share some of the feelings I have about LIP grants and some of the disparities which exist in respect of those grants. If we look at the situation, we see that the province of Quebec receives from such grants an amount of \$34,601,000, compared to the province of Manitoba, the province of Saskatchewan, the province of Alberta, the province of British Columbia and the Northwest Territories which receive only \$13,695,000 collectively.

I am well aware that this is based on unemployment. Obviously, unemployment in Quebec is larger than in these other areas. I have chosen these two areas because they have populations which are almost equal. However, there is a factor which is not being observed. In essence, the prairies export their unemployment. The need for jobs on the prairies is just as great as anywhere in Canada. If we look at the statistics concerning what has happened between 1961 and 1971, we find that in the rural population of Alberta we have lost 57,113 people. In Saskatchewan, in the same decade, we lost 91,000 people. In Manitoba there was a loss of 31,000. While there was an increase in population in rural British Columbia, there was a net loss of farm population in that province.

Anyone who has had the experience of driving through the small, dying towns of the prairies must realize that because there is no unemployment is no reason to believe there is no need for the creation of employment. I say it is an unjustifiable situation to find \$34 million being applied to one province while another area of equal population, but much larger in size, receives \$13 million.

I should now like to turn to what I call the thesis of my maiden address. Agriculture at the producer level is not treated as an industry. There are many reasons for this. It is not treated as an industry because it is a soil resource. It is not treated as an industry because of the market situation. I should like to deal with some of these points in depth, in order to show what the situation is and its implications. The Niagara peninsula in Canada essentially has been wiped out by other industries. The Okanagan Valley has been exploited in order to encourage development other than agriculture.