

*Supply—Forestry and Rural Development*

• (3:40 p.m.)

out and identify the obstacles to progress—the factors which have accounted for the progress to date. What distresses us all is the attitude taken in a constant series of articles appearing from time to time in learned magazines as well as in daily newspapers. I cannot deny the accuracy of the assessment made in these articles. I wish to read a portion of one article which happens to be the most recent—it is dated October 17, appeared in the *Ottawa Journal*, and is written by James Gray, a man with at least 40 years experience of reporting in western Canada, a good deal of it in close proximity to the agriculturists of that region.

The headline of this report states in black type for every city reader to see: "ARDA Floundering in Alberta". Listen to this:

The gulf which separates the ideas of the Ottawa deep thinkers from the realities of life is being boldly etched in Alberta these days. In no place is the process more apparent than in the efforts of Ottawa to get its ARDA program off the ground.

The Agriculture and Rural Development Administration was spawned in the days when Alvin Hamilton was minister of agriculture. It was set up to eradicate rural poverty all over Canada. The basis of rural poverty is the existence of sub-marginal people on submarginal land.

The writer then goes on to describe the training program being offered in Alberta to induce people obviously in serious economic difficulties to move from their present holdings to the city of Edmonton, receive training there, and eventually find jobs more likely to provide a reasonable living for themselves and their families. I believe this is a fair article, one which does justice to the department inasmuch as it assumes that the department is trying. Yet, further on, we read that after two years of effort all that has been achieved is the signing up, in connection with this program, of 35 families—the great majority of those concerned having refused to co-operate, mainly because they are reluctant to exchange a type of poverty with which, at least, they are familiar, for a new type of poverty in the city about which they know very little.

Here in this article is evidence of the uneasiness which I believe is present in the minds of most members of this house who were unanimous in 1961 in supporting the ARDA legislation. I do not know whether my own remarks will do much good, but for better or worse I will make them, and put forward a few ideas in the hope that the minister will consider them, and possibly make some changes.

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First, knowing something about the administrations responsible for ARDA in each of the provinces, it is only fair to say that knowledge of ARDA, its purposes and techniques, varies a great deal from province to province. I do not think that lack of knowledge at the provincial level should be held against the minister. In some cases there is that lack of knowledge, but by contrast in other provinces the effort and the appreciation are superb. I will give you an example of that in a moment, but this is one difficulty which we have to consider in our analysis of what the minister is doing. However, having said that I immediately hasten to say that a great deal of the responsibility for the situation that I have described does fall on the minister, because it was he who stood up in this house and stated the principle, which was at complete variance with the original principle I enunciated concerning the right and the power of the federal government to initiate programs and ideas.

In our original statement of ARDA purposes we accepted the fact that because there was division of constitutional authority, and because in solving the economic problems of the traditional farmer we had to seek answers through all forms of resource use, a matter which crossed federal and provincial jurisdictional boundaries, we should have to seek a new type of mature sophistication and work together, first of all to find the answers and then solve the constitutional problems later.

In my opening remarks on the ARDA legislation I emphasized that the initiative should lie at all three levels, these being (a) the federal government, (b) the provincial governments—and I accept the fact that with respect to most resources the legal constitutional responsibility does fall on the provinces—and (c) in the rural development part of the legislation, under which the people themselves propose projects.

If the minister reads my speeches again he will find out that I put my opinion flatly on the line, that the success or failure of this brand new concept of self-help legislation, in contrast with the hand-out type of legislation, would depend on the ability of local people to find their own answers. All that governments were to do was to provide the advice, the surveys and the knowledge upon which they, the local people, could base reasonable proposals, and the second thing that governments were to do came under the conservation part of the act by providing social