

Rural Development

Speaker. I never like coloured socks and things of that sort. I am quite conservative where finance is concerned. I always want to know that two and two make four. I think it was very wise not to launch into a crash program but rather to proceed cautiously and, on the basis of the experience we are able to gain from year to year in the various regions of Canada, solve some of the problems. For instance, the problems that we might find in Quebec are quite different from the problems in Ontario or the problems in the prairie provinces or even the problems related to the regions I have the honour to represent, which are in the garden of Eden. The minister will have much less difficulty in applying the terms of this act to that area.

I think it was wise to limit the amount of money to be expended at this time. I believe that the idea that the money supply can be expanded very rapidly as the principle of the legislation is proven is correct. In addition to having the support of all hon. members in the house, the bill has the support of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, farmers' unions, fruit growers organizations, farmers' and women's institutes and other community groups, particularly those rural community groups which are interested in co-operating with the government and with the groups directly concerned in making a success of this legislation.

I want to conclude on a personal note, Mr. Speaker. I rarely do that. As president of Canadian Tree Farmers Association I wish to quote from the minutes of the annual meeting which was held in Ottawa on Saturday, March 26, this year:

On the recommendation of Mr. John Carley, chairman of the Ontario branch of the C.F.T.A., the members approved a resolution, that an advisory board to ARDA and similar programs be established, consisting of representatives from all farm associations and organizations, interested in what ARDA, and related programs are trying to do.

• (4:30 p.m.)

This was endorsed unanimously. Representatives of our organization are meeting with representatives of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture and with other groups in Quebec.

I can assure the minister that he has the good will and support of the Canadian Tree Farmers Association with respect to rural development in Canada. I trust every effort will be made to secure public interest and participation in this program by means of information provided by the department itself

[Mr. Herridge.]

through government publications, through the press and particularly through those papers and periodicals which are concerned with the maintenance and improvement of rural life in Canada.

Mr. P. V. Noble (Grey North): Mr. Speaker, I support Bill C-151 because the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act has become a sound establishment in our way of life and the \$50 million stipulated in the legislation is a reasonable sum to allocate for the purposes of this measure.

Action in this field is the brain-child of a man of vision in a Conservative government and has caught on rapidly since its inception in 1961. It is particularly applicable to the area which I represent as we have an abundance of marginal land. Our whole economy has suffered from lack of industry. The Georgian Bay area has now been designated after two years of almost continual appeals to the government for justified consideration. With the benefits of designation and the proper application of ARDA the Georgian Bay area could become a most desirable place in which to live. We have all the other desirable characteristics such as good beaches, plentiful camping sites, fine scenery, good hunting and fishing.

I support this bill because I believe it to be progressive legislation. It will provide the proper atmosphere for a vast scope of possibilities essential to the improvement of rural income and the restoration of many natural resources so vital to the accomplishment of the desired result. The benefits it can render to the whole nation are almost unlimited.

The rejuvenation of rural areas will help simplify educational problems and other aspects of communities which are blighted when deterioration has taken its toll. I suggest that a thorough survey of the whole country be conducted so that those areas which should benefit will not be neglected. I endorse the idea presented by the hon. member for Northumberland (Mr. Hees) when he suggested that well publicized meetings could be held in areas in need of attention. At these meetings speakers would be available to explain in detail all the ramifications of ARDA. More personal interest would surely be forthcoming and this would contribute to a better result.

In my constituency of Grey North and the surrounding areas we have some fine farms and progressive people. We also have many