

*Rural Development*

particular passage in this particular bill rather than to the much more obvious provision in the other very closely related bill.

**Mr. Jorgenson:** I assure the hon. member I was dealing with this particular bill. I do not intend to deal with it clause by clause. I was making a reference to this clause because it is in the bill and I wanted to include it in my general remarks. The clause by clause consideration will come up eventually.

I notice finally they have located the minister. I wonder whether he would care to go ahead with his remarks at this time and perhaps I could follow him later, if I could be given permission to do so. I am sure the minister would wish to make a statement.

**Mr. Turner:** It will be without prejudice to the hon. member's right to continue his speech.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Minister of Forestry.

[*Translation*]

**Hon. Maurice Sauvé (Minister of Forestry):** Mr. Speaker, I hope the hon. members will excuse me. I was here until 5.30 and I thought my bill would only be called a little later on. Please accept my apologies.

This bill was read the first time on March 18, when the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Robichaud) was kind enough to replace me here. As the hon. members know, I was then recovering from an illness and could not be here, although I would have liked to tell them what I shall now make clear to them.

We had no intention whatever of bringing forward an amendment to the act known as ARDA. It was the Department of Justice which, some time last year, thought that the act passed in 1961 restricted to rural areas, where agriculture was possible, projects submitted by provincial governments and approved by the federal government. And doubts were raised in the Department of Justice about the legality of certain projects submitted to us by some of the provinces and which, while they concerned rural areas, were not meant for a region where agriculture was possible. I am thinking especially of Newfoundland and certain areas of the province of Quebec.

● (7:20 p.m.)

It is only after long discussions with the Department of Justice that we decided to introduce an amendment to the act passed in 1961. Had there not been that insistence from the Department of Justice or that inter-

pretation of the 1961 legislation, Bill C-152 now before the house would serve no purpose.

Therefore, I wish to reassure all hon. members of this house and say that we have no intention of removing from the statute books this act known as ARDA. On the contrary I will have the pleasure, in a few minutes, to move an amendment to section 2 (1), which will definitely establish the ARDA abbreviation.

If the hon. members of this house refer to chapter 30, 9-10 Elizabeth II, an act to provide for the rehabilitation of agricultural lands and the development of rural areas in Canada, assented to on June 22, 1961, they will notice that the short title of the act makes no reference to the ARDA abbreviation, neither in English nor in French. And I think that because of the importance of this act, which was passed unanimously by the house on May 31, 1961, after a stirring address by the minister of agriculture of the day, the hon. member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Hamilton), it is important to establish in the facts and in the act the ARDA abbreviation.

This, I think will reassure all hon. members and, had there been no obligation for us to amend the act, we would have continued using this abbreviation, which as yet is not part of the act.

It will be recalled that it was on December 15, 1960 that the minister of agriculture of the day, now the hon. member for Qu'Appelle, moved the resolution introducing this act in the house of commons. He had been minister of agriculture since October 11, 1960, and it is his predecessor, the hon. member for Calgary North—I believe it is not known generally in the house—who had taken the initiative in proposing to the then government the act now known under the name of ARDA. The hon. member for Calgary North was therefore closely associated with the preparation of this act which, I am sure, is still endorsed by all members of this house. As I said earlier, this piece of legislation was passed unanimously, which happens very seldom nowadays, and I hope that at the end of our discussions, today if possible, hon. members will agree to pass unanimously the proposed amendment or amendments.

We only propose striking out from certain sections of the act the word "agricultural" and, in some cases, substituting for it the word "rural". We also suggest an explanation about advisory committees, namely in subsection (6), section 7 of the present bill.