

*Grants to Designated Areas*

Mr. Speaker, as pointed out a little earlier by the hon. Member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters), who represents the riding next to mine where almost the same problems exist, I feel that the only way to help northwestern Quebec and northeastern Ontario is to promote the settlement of new mining companies. However, when we make this suggestion, it falls on deaf ears, people do not want to hear, people do not believe that there are, in those areas, almost unrestricted opportunities for mining development.

Mr. Speaker, it must be realized that there are other things besides gold in that part of the country. In fact, copper, zinc, nickel, ores of all kinds can be found there, provided we want to assist in the development of our mining industry. I am convinced that if the government spent one thousandth of its energy to promote the establishment of new mining industries in our area, it would not have to introduce bills and measures like the one we are now considering, and the Minister of Industry and Defence Production would be perfectly free to say: We have promoted the establishment of those industries which, in turn, have created employment, economic stability, in short we have given confidence to the Canadian people who live in that area.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot hope for any industry other than the mining and forestry industries, and even then, the mining industry is well ahead of the other in our area.

Mr. Speaker, I want to call the minister's attention to the provisions of Bill No. C-129 and ask him to consider carefully the existing conditions and situation at this time in northwestern Quebec and northeastern Ontario. I am sure he would then offer himself the luxury of a trip from Montreal to Rouyn, to Kirkland Lake or to Timmins, in order to find out exactly what is happening in those areas.

The city of Montreal does not experience problems of this kind, because there are no mines in Montreal. There may be a minister's mine, but there is no gold mine of any kind.

I sincerely believe that, when the time comes to examine Bill No. C-129, as well as the proposed amendments, the minister should consider what could be done as regards the areas which are already designated areas, underdeveloped areas, whereas we have, as I said a while ago, almost unlimited possibilities as regards development, but nobody dares to think about them, because the exact situation is not known.

[Mr. Caouette.]

Those possibilities are ours and all the minister has to do is to take the required decisions, not decisions that would cost something to the government, but decisions which will eventually be profitable to Canada as a whole and more particularly to the citizens now living in the designated areas of northwestern Quebec or northeastern Ontario.

I say and I repeat that the minister will then have taken into account and respected the feelings and aspirations of the people living in regions which are recognized as designated areas.

[English]

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the House went into committee thereon,—Mr. Richard in the Chair.

● (8:00 p.m.)

Clauses 2 to 11 inclusive agreed to.

On clause 12.

**Mr. Douglas:** I wish to say a word on clause 12. I think this is the clause under which most of the trouble arises. I think hon. Members generally are strongly in favour of the purpose and intent of the legislation. The thing which has worried everyone is the question of the regulations under which areas are declared to be designated areas, and the other regulations which will flow from this clause.

I must say I have a great deal of sympathy with the Minister. This is not a simple problem. The task of trying to forge an economic technique for coping with regional unemployment takes a great deal of sophistication and experience. I have had an opportunity to look at the programs carried out by a number of countries, Sweden, West Germany, and Britain in particular. They vary from country to country. West Germany which is a federation, uses a totally different technique from Sweden which has a complex and sophisticated series of enactments. Great Britain, where legislation of this kind is more recent, has not yet reached the stage of advancement which has been reached by Sweden.

We have to be patient and feel our way. I think there is no doubt that the criteria we used last year were not adequate. They produced a great many anomalies and some glaring inequities. I think the formula the Minister is presenting now constitutes an improvement. I believe there will have to be further improvements. The Minister, in one of the formulae, said he will take into consideration non-farm income. I think the time is coming when in some regions we shall have to take farm income into consideration.