

The Address—Mr. Ellis

want to relate some of my remarks to the type of area that the constituency of Hastings embraces. The county seat is Belleville, an urban area that is steadily growing and is moderately prosperous. New and expanding industries are coming in regularly. Just this past summer there was a new \$4 million initial expansion. The amenities parallel the industrial growth, that is to say, there are parks, a river front, a new bay shore that all people are proud of, a museum, a playhouse, excellent facilities for senior citizens, and a bus service. It even has snow plowing and street lighting at least as good as any centre anywhere in Canada.

In addition, the rural area includes a number of small municipalities, each unique in itself, each with its own small industry contributing to the over-all economy of the area. In the very north, the community of Bancroft has a complete leathercraft industry that ships its products all over the world. Also uranium is produced there. The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Macdonald) knows that I have been continually after him for quite some time to step in and have this mine, which ran so well a few years ago, reopened. I applaud his statement regarding foreign ownership, but if the government wants to see some growth, this particular area can stand some assistance so it can begin producing now.

In the village of Marmora there is an iron ore production facility that is unique to eastern Ontario. It is being extended and could probably use some more support from the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The village of Madoc is one of the largest suppliers, and up until a few years ago the only supplier, of talc in this part of Canada. The village of Tweed produces plywood. Those members of the House who are golfers might like to know that the laminated plywood golf heads on their clubs come from the grand old county of Hastings. Another municipality is Deseronto, which has various types of industries and a beautiful marina on the Bay of Quinte.

I mention all this because the government, particularly those on the treasury benches opposite, frequently forget that this is a part of Canada that pays a great amount of the tax that this country spends so readily. This is where its at. These people are the backbone, the very essence of Canadian life, and these are the people who are hurt when, in my opinion, the government makes stupid decisions to spend beyond their means instead of living within our budget. Furthermore, these people are made of sterner stuff; they are prepared to tighten their belts and to take strong measures. They are prepared to do so, but unfortunately the government is not.

In addition to those I have already mentioned, there are 20 or more hamlets, incorporated or otherwise, consisting of a dozen, 15 or 20 homes, that I should like to bring to the attention of the government. A couple of weeks prior to the opening of the House I travelled to every one of these small communities, and the story was always the same: they are as prosperous as the bungling and the mishandling of our natural resources by this government will allow.

There are little communities like Coe Hill and Shannonville, names that I am sure have never before been men-

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tioned in this chamber, and I am not certain that the Postmaster General (Mr. Mackasey) had never heard of them before until this morning when I brought them to his attention. We are spending many millions of dollars on large buildings in the city of Ottawa and other centres across the country, but these little hamlets, with two or three rural routes running out of them, do need better post office facilities. Indeed, recent surveys show that they deserve better post office facilities, Mr. Speaker, but they are not getting them. I intend to press the Postmaster General until they do get them.

All hon. members have heard me brag about the rural areas in the county of Hastings and the fabulous cheese that comes from there. I have to admit, Mr. Speaker, to carrying literally tons of that cheese to Ottawa for consumption by various hon. members, and I have had no complaint about that which I have put in the lobby from time to time.

The throne speech mentions the need to increase food production. How can you increase food production when you cannot attract young people to the farms or keep them on the farms, with interest rates as high as they are now? The farm credit legislation is virtually useless to them; they are turned down for a number of particularly phony reasons. This is especially the case with an ambitious young man who because he wants to raise a family holds down two jobs: he is not qualified as a farmer in the eyes of the legislation.

How can you increase food production, Mr. Speaker, when the cow-calf operators are losing money at the rate they are today? They got into the business because the government gave them interest-free loans. Now the government tells them they have to pay the money back, and of course they do not have the money with which to repay the loans. My hon. friend from Medicine Hat (Mr. Hargrave) the other day asked the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) if he knew just how serious this problem was. From the dairyman's point of view, even the animals that he used to sell at the end of their productive life and make a small profit on bring in only 12 to 15 cents a pound, a loss even at that.

How can you increase food production unless you give the dairy farmers a reasonable return on their investment? During the past year there was an increase in the subsidized price of milk. It was not enough, but it was not bad. Farmers at the time felt that if they tightened their belts a little they might be able to live with that price. But since then costs have again increased. What are we supposed to do? Are we to wait until next April 1, the very deadline, before we know exactly what the government's policy is going to be on milk subsidization?

The farmer really does not care whether milk is at \$5 per 100 pounds or \$10 per 100 pounds. As a matter of fact, he would probably far rather make 10 cents at \$5 than lose 10 cents at \$10. How can you increase food production? In fact, how can you expect anyone, young or old, to invest the \$200,000 to \$250,000 necessary without having some stability and some long-term policies in the field of agriculture? Farmers are businessmen. In my part of the country, particularly, this is so, and I think they are improving as businessmen. If you go back to 1954, one farm worker fed 16 of his fellow Canadians. In 1974, 20