

*Rural Development*

hope very sincerely that it will get the approval of the federal and provincial governments and that there will be numerous adjustments to develop the economy of the area.

We also have some concern which is shared by all outlying communities, or the less favoured areas, which now see great economic concentrations take place away from their territories, and in relation to the problems of agriculture, on which a man could once make his own living and which today can feed about 30 persons, gradually moving toward an industrial and commercial orientation, while the necessary expansion of lands and better utilization of farming machinery release a great number of farm employees who cannot find employment in our areas and increase the haemorrhagic outflow toward the large sectors, which deprives our society of the dynamic elements for the development of our territory.

We are greatly worried because we know that, at the present time, industrial development is made in relation to great concentrations of population and also that universities settle where there are research centers, thus accentuating that migration of young people from the rural areas to the city and creating great problems.

We understand that the industrialist is not responsible for the social problems he creates but, in the end however, through his taxes and his participation to the fiscal and economic life of the country, he foots the bill.

One may wonder what social and economic problems those economic forces, left alone and aiming toward that greater centralization, create at all levels.

Air and water pollution, the ever-increasing cost of expropriation in large cities for road construction, underground and air traffic, finally the crowding in great cities of often badly prepared people from rural areas. What does that bring about as social and moral problems? What is the general cost to society and what is the problem with regard to the standard of living and the joy of living?

Will it be necessary in the end—and that is the question being asked in rural areas—to encourage progress where it is, where it can happen or if it will be necessary to stop that drain and try to create a type of economic stability which would be better distributed throughout Canada?

In short, to remedy unemployment in rural areas, will it be necessary to encourage only a policy of manpower mobility? Would it be aiming too high and taxing too much our human and economic resources to want to better economic stability throughout the country?

● (8:40 p.m.)

Those are the questions being asked and they worry the rural areas which, in spite of all, want to build, to expand.

Father Pierre said:

—that a world governed to please those who are happy and not to free those who suffer unjustly is necessarily doomed to hate.

One may wonder what the feeling of frustration felt in rural areas about that constant migration of their primary forces can result in at the political level for the future of the country.

If some demagogues really knew how to capitalize on those feelings of frustration, they could sometimes lead us in adventures which would have terrible repercussions on our country's future.

I submit that, in any case, we will have to pay the price of progress or recession, and by recession, I mean let things follow their own course and do nothing to restore the economic balance to which I referred a while ago.

It would be interesting to have exact figures on what I call the price of recession. What is the social and economic cost of this youth migration? People, speaking in a popular way of this centralization toward large centres, translate this thought by saying: water goes to the river and developments of large centres invite governments to invest the necessary funds for public works and other services, while the same services are refused to small centres because it would not be profitable. But shall we allow—and I return to my example—an extremely fertile land to be flooded and carried away into a single gulf, or shall we be able to embank it to allow irrigation of its shores for the benefit of all the areas?

The whole problem concerns the necessity to set up an economic balance throughout the province, throughout the country. This bad distribution leads directly to chronic and lasting unemployment in less favoured areas.

There is also the danger that this unemployment, this destitution may lead to intangible social calamities, when there are so many opportunities and so much good will that have only to be put to good use, so much