

provinces, the only reply given by the government was that consultations did take place, and the whole thing was done by discussion? The government would not even answer my question about when those consultations took place. The government then went on to indicate that the details of those consultations were confidential.

Mr. O'Connell: I think I explained that, Mr. Speaker. The desire was to hold oral consultations, if at all possible, in order to arrive at a rapid resolution of the boundaries in each province. In only one case did they result in correspondence. I ask again whether the hon. member is prepared to withdraw the motion on the basis of that explanation.

• (5:30 p.m.)

Mr. Burton: Mr. Speaker, could I ask the hon. member a question?

Mr. O'Connell: I am not prepared to accept further questions. I think I am entitled to an answer to the explanation I have given the hon. gentleman. I do not think he is prepared to withdraw his motion. I would say in conclusion, since I do not propose at this time to enter into a debate on the motion, that there are a number of appropriate occasions to raise this type of question. The time will soon come when the estimates are before the Standing Committee on Regional Development. I think the hon. member is a member of that committee. With regard to the points raised as to why various matters were not included, let me say that there will be more appropriate opportunities than this to discuss such details and I will be delighted to be in attendance at some of these meetings.

Mr. Ralph Stewart (Cochrane): Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Regina East (Mr. Burton) has before us a Notice of Motion for the Production of Papers. These papers do not exist, yet we continue to debate a matter which has nothing to do with this motion. We are talking about a matter which concerns the incentives program of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. I am happy to talk about that program at any time, but it seems to me this is nothing but a ruse on the part of the hon. member. In any event, the hon. member refuses to withdraw his Notice of Motion for the Production of Papers which do not exist. He is using this as a ruse in order to do some politicking back home and to talk about the situation in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The hon. member knows he cannot impute motives.

Regional Development Incentives Act

Mr. Stewart (Cochrane): I am sorry if I seemed to impute motives to the hon. member for Regina East, but it is difficult to understand why we must go on with the debate when there are so many other important things to discuss in the House. In any event, we continue to discuss a Notice of Motion for the Production of Papers which do not exist. To me, this is the kind of thing that lowers the whole tenor of the House of Commons. It is the kind of thing that lowers the reputation of this institution in the eyes of people of this country.

I can understand the hon. member's desire to bring this matter before the House. I can understand why everyone would like to have certain parts of the country designated for special consideration. We would all like that, but I suggest this is not the way to go about it. It seems to me this is typical of the kind of method used by a number of members in this House to bring things forward and to talk about situations that are important to them personally and to their constituents, but they are not necessarily matters of importance to the whole country.

The question of regional economic expansion is very close to my heart. I have always been extremely interested in it. Our country is relatively underdeveloped as compared with other countries, but it has a tremendous future. The only way we can become great in the world is by developing our potential. It is rather ridiculous for all of us to come here and say that certain parts of Canada should be considered under this program. Perhaps this is why I said a while ago, out of turn, that the hon. member for Yorkton-Melville (Mr. Nystrom) was wandering when he suggested that all of Canada should be designated. He suggested that we should designate Yorkton, this place and another place.

I have a sister and a brother-in-law who work in the area of Melville. I am sure they would like to see Melville designated as a special region. We would all like this in all areas of Canada. But let us be practical. As far as Saskatchewan is concerned, I cannot remember when I have heard anything about politics in this country and the Prairies, and particularly Saskatchewan, have not been mentioned in one way or another, usually in connection with wheat. We have had our share of discussion about wheat in this Parliament since I was elected. We have heard nothing but talk about wheat, damp and otherwise. We have heard about the hardships suffered by the people of Saskatchewan and why they should receive special consideration.