

Regional Economic Expansion
PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF DESIGNATION OF
RENFREW COUNTY BEYOND JUNE 30, 1972

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. McBride:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of extending the designation of Renfrew county for special incentives under the Regional Economic Expansion legislation beyond June 30, 1972.

Mr. A. D. Alkenbrack (Frontenac-Lennox and Addington): Mr. Speaker, in rising to take part in this debate, I wish to compliment my friend, the hon. member for Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton (Mr. McBride) for his opportune motion.

I take it that the hon. member is asking that the present designations and rates be extended beyond June 30, but he does not state for how long. Under the Pearson government, and before redistribution, when we first had legislation providing for treatment of certain designated areas, none of those areas were located in any part of the riding that I then represented. That was the riding of Prince Edward-Lennox. In that riding at that time we were forced, and we still are forced to stand on our own feet, pay federal, provincial and municipal taxes, and do without the benefits of designation. Thus, I was obliged to take the stand that since the undesignated areas received no special benefits, and had to continue to pay taxes to stimulate the designated regions, this did little net good over the whole national scene. That is logic that cannot be refuted. The more assistance we give to certain areas, then the bigger the load that unassisted areas must bear.

• (1720)

Although I support the hon. member's motion because I now find myself representing 12 townships and two incorporated villages in the Barry area to which this designating motion applies, we have found that in spite of quite a long and fairly productive period of designation there is something still wrong. The forest industry, and all the other business such as secondary industry, that we thought would be immensely benefited, are still impaled upon the hazards of taxation and poor markets. I now contend that the government should extend further tax benefits to these firms and help them find markets for their products. I know that the hon. member for Renfrew-Lanark-Carleton is listening to me, Mr. Speaker, because here I am referring to markets for wood pulp and wood chips.

The lumber market in that area is fairly good. The price of maple is at an all time high. The mills are paying \$85 to \$90 a thousand for spruce logs. That indicates they are getting good prices for sawn lumber. However, the market for pulp and wood chips is in a turmoil and uncertain. There are some companies which got assistance under ARDA, and others that are hoping to receive grants under DREE, that do not know what the next quarter will bring with respect to marketing of the products for which they may receive assistance to manufacture. The government, the House of Commons, and all private members in it are

[The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger).]

finding out that designation is not just everything we thought it would be. There must be some better plan of assistance for primary industry, especially for the small primary industry we have in the Ottawa valley.

If we are to do as my colleague recommends, and extend this arm of benefits beyond June 30, then I must insist that the northern part of the counties of Lennox and Addington, and the northern part of Frontenac be included in this designated area, plus the five townships of western Lanark which I have the honour to represent, including North and South Sherbrooke, Bathurst, Dalhousie and Lavant.

An hon. Member: You might as well get a share of the pork barrel.

Mr. Alkenbrack: An hon. member says that we might as well get a share of the pork barrel. I point out that three applicants in the township of Raglan in the western part of Renfrew county have had no satisfaction from the Department of Regional Economic Expansion to date. This would indicate that the pork barrel must be pretty well used up. More than one industry in the Renfrew county portion of Frontenac-Lennox and Addington has applied for assistance, and has not yet received any benefits.

The forest industry in my area can still be classed as a primary industry. Although the government has encouraged the establishment of pulp and paper mills helter-skelter, indiscriminately and unwisely across the country, it has not tried to encourage any secondary manufacturing in the forest industry in the Ottawa valley. There is a pulp mill at Portage du Fort just across the river from Pembroke, and I wonder why we cannot have one on our side. Our people from Ontario have to market their pulp wood there sometimes at a disadvantage. Sometimes they do not get full measure for their product, a product which they have to draw many miles. I ask why cannot a study be made into the feasibility of a pulp mill on our side of the river in Renfrew county? Such a mill could manufacture the wood into pulp, and possibly into paper. It would be a secondary form of manufacturing which could employ some of the manpower we have there. It would employ more people than the primary production to which we have been confined for so many years.

Diverging from the wood industry for a moment, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point to a very energetic and economically viable maple syrup industry in Raglan township, which is the result of a brilliant man's mind, the result of much work, and the result of patents held by this individual. By vacuum action he pipes the maple sap from each tree. He has over 50 miles of plastic piping conducting the sap to a very modern sugar house. It contains the most modern equipment, costing thousands of dollars. I understand he has spent over \$40,000 on the operation he now has. It produced this year about \$20,000 worth of maple syrup of the very best quality. This man was unsuccessful in his application for help from DREE. He applied but was given short shrift. The other day I said to him, "I suppose you have received a grant from the federal government." He said, "No, not one cent". He received very little from the provincial government. He is now operating