

*Rural Development*

N.D.P. members and a Liberal member by the name of Singer. He said:

"You've got all the flexibility in the world!"

This is what he was saying to the provincial government. It was the minister tonight who said he has flexibility in ARDA, and I sincerely hope he is aware of the need and will act accordingly. I can indicate to him the income which other counties in the province of Ontario have. These are official figures from the provincial government. In the township of North Hastings the income was an average of \$1,380. In Lindsay township in the county of Bruce it was \$1,530. Those are gross figures. I do not think we need go beyond the province of Ontario where the general belief is that everyone is wealthy. There are areas there which should be considered, too. I would ask the minister to bear this in mind when he is carrying out the terms of the legislation. There are others here. I could go down a long list, but statistics mean nothing except to prove a point at this time. We are looking to the future. We are looking to the minister to back up what he has said tonight. This concerns the whole country and not just one area.

I have sympathy for the people in Gaspé, whom the minister mentioned, the same as I have sympathy in respect of the need which I know exists in my own province. I am just as sympathetic concerning the people in Manitoba as I am in respect of the people who I know need help in my own province. We cannot go along and allow this area of taxation in the country to sink these people, because there is not another place for them to go. Most of them love the industry they are in and want to stay on the land; they do not want credit. Earlier in this session we expanded the use of the credit offered by the Farm Credit Corporation. But these people do not want credit; they have enough of it now. Some of them are buried in credit. This is the reason they feel no one is coming forward to do something which will give them the opportunity they require.

I notice that many of these points I have raised are in print in the bill now before us. I am pleased about that, because obviously the minister knew about all the provisions that were going into the bill. I do believe he has his finger on the important aspects of rural life which need attention, and he has outlined all of the ideas which will do the job. If he wishes to employ the powers that are at his

discretion, he will now through this legislation develop a program which will assist the people to help themselves.

The minister himself said that this is not a welfare approach. As I said to him, we are not interested in this business of coming along and offering returns for efforts which do not produce. These people are willing to put the effort forth themselves, if the opportunity exists. As he stated, the legislation is not designed to step in where public investment cannot support the program that may be necessary in many areas. We experience this in our area of Ontario almost every year. There are other things we need. I often think of the assistance given in respect of the trans-Canada road program through western Ontario, and that a road program well might be considered to assist some of the small secondary industries in coming into these areas, if they should deem it advisable to locate outside the urban areas.

If again, as the minister stated, the bill is to create in the final analysis a better economic balance, a better standard of living, and a new era of development, the minister I think can be sure of the support of every member on this side of the house. Because of some of the things I have mentioned, I do not think we should be suspicious—not at all—but I think we must be very watchful and on guard to see that what the minister has said indeed becomes action, and is carried through into a realistic program for the benefit of the people in rural Canada.

• (7:40 p.m.)

**Mr. Hugh Faulkner (Peterborough):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to speak very briefly to this bill, which I consider a very imaginative one. Indeed, I think the whole approach exemplified by the minister is imaginative. It is one which deals with the sort of specifics we were told about last night on television. It is very important that this sort of approach be characteristic.

Before making one or two points I should like to deal with an assertion made by the hon. member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Winkler) to the effect that this government is pursuing a line which is designed to reduce the voice of rural Canada. I suggest categorically that that is a false statement, if it is based on the results of redistribution. Redistribution was considered by independent commissions whose decisions cannot be attributed to the government.

This party, of which I am very proud to be a member, is deeply concerned with what is