

Supply—Mr. Gauthier

used by the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development (Mr. Sauvé) to move farms into the forest and the forest on the farms.

ARDA is supposed to solve all the problems, when in fact it only creates new ones.

Under ARDA, Mr. Speaker, study groups were set up to determine how poor people actually were and have farms analysed by a group of students called technicians.

● (9:20 p.m.)

Under ARDA, political committees were set up, such as the one in the Mistassini valley, in which an amount of \$50,000 was sunk in the last election to conduct a so-called social-economic survey. It is unthinkable that such a movement should be used to play politics during an election campaign.

During the last election campaign, as I said earlier, ARDA provided an amount of \$50,000 for a survey. Some survey. Young girls and women were hired at \$15 per day to go from door to door and inquire in all families, especially Créditiste families, and promise anything, to set up a factory here, a factory there. And this was called a social-economic survey.

An hon. Member: Policy of grandeur.

Mr. Gauthier: This stopped two days before the vote. I want to make this clear and inform the government of what went on.

They went into homes to ask questions. They claimed to be asking questions on the family budget to determine the state of poverty of a family but, in fact, the questions were to, determine whether they were Conservative, Liberal or Créditistes.

During the last week they went to work. More than 1,000 people worked day and night, in all counties, probably to finish their survey.

Under ARDA, \$3 million were spent to destroy tens of millions of dollars in forestry resources.

I refer now to those famous blueberry "farms" that were established, only to become wastelands. Fifteen and 20 year-old timber stands were burned down. All the timber were cut down to make way for those blueberry "farms". Where blueberries were supposed to grow, you have only a desert, for nothing remains. And to think that two years before, if a settler dared to cut down a tree, it cost him \$10 each time. But there thousands of acres have been ruined. Over 11 of those blueberry fields were established. Often, thousands of acres were destroyed to allow a patronage-handling contractor to get the contract and have the settlers work for nothing. And, you can take my word for it, they will never raise a crop of blueberries there.

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Under the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act, there was petty politics which was detrimental to economy, there was patronage to make everybody work, not for society, but for the party. Under ARDA, the minister visits the constituencies. He came to Roberval to brag about his achievements. However, when asked about the programs developed in various provinces, he replies that it is not his concern. In other words, he accepts undeserved praise, but not responsibility.

Please stop your fireworks that are blinding everybody.

If the administration of ARDA is the responsibility of the provinces, why is the federal minister roaming about the provinces to suggest that he is the great magician, that he is the man that does everything.

The subsidies promised to the provinces under joint programs are statutory subsidies to provinces, and the federal government has not crossed this barrier; otherwise, it jeopardizes the economy of the provinces.

What we expect from ARDA, under which the federal government places funds at the disposal of the provinces, an act for the improvement of farm lands, is surely not work performed exclusively on crown land.

What we expect from ARDA are subsidies for real improvement of farmlands. We have not yet received any and we are still waiting.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, there is work going on all the time on crown lands. They are deforested and farmland is retimbered. Subsidies are said to be given to farmers that they may improve their land. Let us instead grant subsidies for zoning and for classification of production.

We are still waiting for the drainage subsidies. Since the law came into force we have been begging the Quebec government and, through it, the central government, for drainage in our regions.

We have wonderful farm lands. If they were drained, they could produce a hundred times as much as Western farms, because in western Canada, the land does not contain humus as ours which guarantees the fertility of our pasture land. Our land is very fertile but it has to be drained; this seems impossible.

We got in touch with the Minister of Agriculture, but he told us it was the responsibility of the Quebec minister of agriculture: "Let him submit projects to us and we will see whether we can approve them."