

*Regional Development*

but there remain some important industrial needs which could have been aided by this incentives act but for which we did not receive any aid at all. We were left out.

● (5:10 p.m.)

As you well know, Mr. Speaker, the area of Sudbury-Copper Cliff is included, as is Sault Ste. Marie. The latter is on the seaway, of course, but unlike Renfrew and Lanark both Sudbury and the Sault Ste. Marie areas are high wage areas and all are remote from the large consumer centres. Sudbury and the Sault of course, already have large industries established there.

Next, I would draw your attention, Mr. Speaker, to the Saguenay area in Quebec. This is a designated area where like the Sault and Sudbury, corporations have been established. No doubt the Saguenay needs help but we in Lanark and Renfrew have no corporations and we have a lower average wage rate than Sudbury, the Sault or the Saguenay and an agricultural base that is being rapidly phased out. Yet, in the judgment of some unknown persons, we did not merit designation. The incentives act gives people of initiative the opportunity to help themselves. In our area we have the people of initiative and we want this opportunity.

That portion of eastern Ontario which lies beyond the immediate environs of Ottawa has all the problems of the north but is denied the remedies. It does not have the population nor the industrial base of southwestern Ontario but, for the purposes of this act, for some strange reason it is considered in the same class. According to the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, this region is too wealthy to be considered poor. I would suggest that it is too poor to be considered wealthy. In fact, most of eastern Ontario is like an abandoned wife. If she is to have any dignity she must create it on her own; having neither the husband of an industrial base nor the assistance of being a designated area, she is numbered amongst the forgotten.

Agriculture is in a state of revolution; the big get bigger and the small get smaller. Marginal farms in counties like Lanark and Renfrew are suffering the most. Our agricultural population is down to 12 per cent. Agriculture will go from 7 per cent to 3 per cent for the nation and probably equal the United States where about 1 per cent of the population is now involved in primary production. In situations like the one existing in Lanark and

Renfrew, large numbers of Canadians run faster to make less.

In eastern Ontario we have the labour; water and land supplies are there. We even have houses in many areas, the lack of which we hear decried many times in this House. We have lots of housing; there are rural farm houses standing empty because of lack of population. We have the houses but we do not have the work.

The whole situation is well summed up by a poet who has become famous as a champion of the underdog. In this sense, I should like the House to recognize that in our area we feel very much the underdog. The poet is Langston Hughes and he writes:

What happens to a dream deferred?  
Does it dry up  
Like a raisin in the sun?  
Or fester like a sore—  
And then run?  
Does it stink like rotten meat?  
Or crust and sugar over—  
Like a syrupy sweet?  
Maybe it just sags  
Like a heavy load.  
Or does it explode?

For those determined officials in Lanark and Renfrew counties it is not so much a case of explosion as it is being burdened by an unduly heavy load. It is not so much that there is no dream to develop our potentials but rather that we are sick and tired of having this dream deferred, deferred and deferred again. For this reason, Mr. Speaker, I would ask the indulgence of the House to give favourable consideration to this notice of motion.

**Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to begin by expressing my sincere regret that the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) has not found it possible or necessary to be here to listen to this very eloquent appeal, to which I am going to add my own remarks in connection with the adjacent area lying within the same regional boundaries as those mentioned by the hon. member. I regret that even the Parliamentary Secretary does not appear to be present. It makes one feel that our pleas for reconsideration of the boundaries laid down under the Regional Incentives Act are falling on deaf ears. I am rising to speak in this debate because I have a great deal of sympathy with the motion made by the hon. member.

The Parry Sound-Muskoka region, in common with the Renfrew-Lanark area, has the geographic misfortune to lie somewhere