

*Regional Development Incentives Act*

one industry decides to move to another location. The idea of growth centres, moving the development closer to the people so that they do not have to migrate from the area where they were born or live in order to find employment, is a good concept and one I would encourage.

Having pointed out the great opportunities that exist within the framework of this legislation, let me also say that I intend to be extremely critical if the minister or the government does not live up to the promises before us. It is not enough to have legislation and to have the power. Probably no one recognizes this more than the minister.

If this government is not prepared to allocate a fair share of the resources of this country to this development, this or any other program will fail. How the government demonstrates its goodwill and intentions is by its willingness to spend money on these ideas. To the present time, and certainly not during the committee evidence, there has been no indication that the government is allocating greater resources than before to the problem of depressed areas in Canada.

The second area the minister must deal with, and he must deal with it in cabinet, is the problem of unemployment. If he does not solve the problem of unemployment, the whole development program will amount to nothing. The minister must realize the facts of life in Canada. It is all right to say we are going to bring in industry that does not exist elsewhere, new industry, but that would unnecessarily limit the minister. In any event, he has no way of controlling this. This means industry from the heartland of Canada will have to be transferred to the depressed areas of this country if we are really sincere about helping them. I speak as a member who comes from a highly industrialized area. I think the people in my constituency understand the needs of the people in the Maritimes, Manitoba and other parts of Canada which require assistance and industry.

They will understand this on one condition, if full employment is maintained in this country. There is a grave responsibility on the minister and his government to see that full employment policies are maintained in this country. It is within the power of the minister and the power of the government to see this happens. There can be no excuse for unemployment in a modern world. There is no need for unemployment. If unemployment exists, it is because governments want it to exist.

[Mr. Saltsman.]

For this program to be successful and to achieve its objectives, we cannot tolerate 4 per cent or 5 per cent unemployment. We cannot even tolerate 3 per cent unemployment in Canada. When you cut unemployment, the whole business of the willingness of industries to move and contemplate new locations will become easier. It is a prior condition to the success of this program.

My colleagues are very concerned about the fact that much of the industry that may receive bonuses in these areas will be foreign. I agree with my colleagues that this is very sad. This again represents a failure on the part of the government to create an instrument of public control for the development of this country. I say in sadness at this moment that we have no choice because of this government's past record but to let some foreign companies come in and develop the underdeveloped areas of Canada. As has been pointed out in this chamber many times, it is very hard to say to the poor and unemployed of this country, this is a paid foreign industry; we do not want it. This is pretty hard to sell to a man who needs a job and has a family to look after. We have to accept this situation because we recognize the box into which many of our people have been put.

• (3:30 p.m.)

But this does not mean we have to go on living with this kind of situation. In this country we must create a Canadian entrepreneur corporation for the development of our resources. When asked a question by a member of his own party about upping the percentage of grant higher than indicated in the legislation, the minister said, "If we have to give more money than that we might as well vote it." I suggest there are very good ways in which Crown corporations could be effectively used to develop Canada, and specifically certain parts of Canada. Many of the vast inducements envisaged by this legislation will go to private industry, and in particular foreign owned private industry. At the moment we do not have any choice because there is no instrument ready to take advantage of this legislation under government sponsorship.

The other failure is a failure in imagination. This failure goes back to the question of crown corporations. It goes back to the question of designated areas all over Canada. It goes back to the government's unwillingness to accept responsibility for establishing crown corporations whereby, for the first time, Canadians would have a basis upon which to judge the success of their government. By