

*Relationship of ARDA to Manitoba's Development Programs*

I see the relationship of our program to the Agricultural Rehabilitation Act as falling into two fields. The first is that ARDA will facilitate the development of natural resources upon which rural industrialization depends. We have found that industrial development in Manitoba depends upon the availability of adequate water supplies for irrigation and for processing.

The development of Columbia Forest Products Limited at Sprague, Manitoba, is an excellent example of the way in which our regional program and ARDA can mesh. Here is an example of where industry is using waste material and locating jobs for under employed marginal farmers.

The other relationship I see is to assist agricultural rehabilitation by offering the opportunity of alternative employment to people in rural areas. I understand that one of the problems encountered by agriculturists contending with the problem of uneconomic farm units, is the unwillingness of many farmers to give up their freedom and independence for a job in the city. Rural industrial development would offer a possible solution to this problem when local people can comprehend the benefits of such a changeover through the efforts of rural sociologists such as my colleague, Mr. Albert Kristjanson. Water supply is an important part of industrial development. This is a field where ARDA will play an important role and will act as a catalyst for further development.

In this paper I have dealt in some length with the activities of our Department of Industry and Commerce and particularly with the program of our Regional Development Branch. Brief mention has been made of the purposes and activities of the Committee on Manitoba's Economic Future. The submission from our Minister of Agriculture and Conservation to the Hon. Alvin Hamilton as prepared by the Manitoba Development Authority is a comprehensive presentation on the types of projects which may be implemented under ARDA, having regard to our current activities in the various provincial departments and agencies.

The regional development program under my direction is a program which attempts to acknowledge and reconcile, in an advisory capacity only, the economic and social aspirations of communities throughout rural Manitoba. The aspects of rural sociology which have been covered by Mr. G. A. Kristjanson are compatible with our development efforts, stressing in more detail of course, the social aspects. Our community and regional development efforts are primarily attempted in the agricultural areas of Manitoba. This is to say that the principal reason for urban areas within these rural environments is because of the production of agricultural products. It is with considerable expectation that we look to the provisions and assistance available through the ARDA program for even greater strides in our Manitoba development program.

The CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Truemner, for a very fine brief. In fact, both of the briefs presented this morning were excellent. It seems that every time I had a question to ask one of your gentlemen answered it as you went along. Are there any questions honourable senators would like to ask?

Senator HOLLETT: Could we get a copy of that submission from Manitoba to the Honourable Alvin Hamilton?

Mr. TRUENNER: I think you would get that through your own federal agricultural department.

Mr. KRISTJANSON: I do not believe there has been any negotiation yet. I think the type of programs I would suggest are the ones we have submitted.

The CHAIRMAN: In that potato area, Carberry, are you using irrigation at all?

Mr. TRUENNER: It is not being used at the present time.