

Rural Development

are being earmarked for a poor hunt, meaning farmers. If he only takes the trouble, he will realize that even though the present government has not accomplished everything it intended, it has nevertheless accomplished a great deal especially by giving the country the best dairy policy since confederation.

We also have a program providing for the establishment of a feed grain purchasing and distribution agency for eastern Canada. All those measures are designed to help agriculture, but the main reason why I am interested in agriculture as a whole, is because provision is being made for the establishment of a \$50 million fund, in addition to the \$125 million available to us under ARDA.

I think that all fields should be looked into. At present, I am concerned with all matters pertaining to agriculture.

Before starting my remarks, I wish to say that I heard the hon. member for Villeneuve quote Cardinal Léger. On the same occasion, His Eminence Paul-Emile Cardinal Léger said about war on poverty something that should be noted:

As desirable as may be a strong state intervention, so should be rejected the idea that everything should be expected from the state and that it is sufficient, in order to eliminate poverty, for every individual to seek quietly to enjoy as much as possible the largest income possible, entrusting with the state alone the care of looking after the outcasts of fortune. The delusion that a brotherly and orderly human society can be established on that basis must be denounced. In the war on poverty, public authorities should therefore take strong action, but should allow programs resulting from private initiative, which are also necessary, to come into being and to progress.

This is what the cardinal said about war on poverty.

● (9:30 p.m.)

It is not claimed that this legislation will of itself solve all problems: along with others which already exist or which are being prepared, it will help not only the farmers but all levels where some unbalance is to be found.

Naturally, it is realized how popular a program ARDA is. Everyone applauded when it was introduced. I think it was the hon. member for Springfield (Mr. Schreyer) who said that after five years, he had some doubts; he felt that ARDA was possibly not progressing fast enough. He was not alone. We too may have felt for a time that ARDA was a cure-all for every ill and possibly quicker-acting than we thought.

[Mr. Berger.]

But in view of the seriousness and the scope of the problem, it is quite evident that the greatest caution must be exercised.

The hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) himself stated that legislation adopted 30 years ago may have been instrumental in establishing municipalities on crown lands that should have remained as such. Villages were founded all over and unfortunately, it is realized today that such villages possibly should not have been founded but that the areas should have been maintained as timber lands. Such things have happened in most ridings I have had the pleasure of visiting, in which I have stayed, lived and worked on the north shore of the St. Lawrence as well as on the south shore. Such legislation, it is being realized today did not produce the expected benefits.

It is obvious that with such a program as ARDA, with its scope and with all the assistance it is intended to bring forth, we must proceed cautiously.

That is why, in closing the debate, the Minister of Forestry, who is responsible for ARDA, will surely have the opportunity of replying to the observations that have been made.

But as far as I am concerned, I should like to join with the hon. member for Rivière-du-Loup-Témiscouata (Mr. Gendron) and others to say that we, too, are interested in the adoption of this particular bill. Obviously, if the legislation provided for an increase of \$100 million instead of \$50 million, everybody would be happier still. And when I say this, I am casting an eye toward the Minister of Finance who would undoubtedly not smile so readily if his budget were to be encumbered more than he can afford at the present time.

I come back to this point. When the topic is the farm situation, you can be sure that I am interested, not so much because I was brought up in the riding of Montmagny-L'Islet and have returned, there, but because, due to close co-operation with the South Shore Development Council, which is mainly concerned with the activities in the counties of Bellechasse, Montmagny-L'Islet and Kamouraska, we see various problems arise on several occasions.

Obviously, like many others, I am not too happy sometimes to be part of a so-called designated area or an area which is not quite able to meet all its wishes and aspirations.