

Rural Development

must be enlarged. This is essential, because the basic principle of agriculture in the province of Quebec is the family farm.

I heard a good minister, in Quebec if you please, 100 per cent socialist, Mr. René Levesque, say that the state had to take control of everything and that it was the end of private enterprise.

I am completely against that. I submit it is private enterprise that built up the country and that will develop it; it is through it that we will prosper. As long as we have socialist ideas, we will have the same headaches as today and I think the province of Quebec will not be rid of them soon, administrated as it is by all those socialists.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the tool mentioned by the minister, that is, the \$50 million we will vote, will really help economic development. The objective of ARDA, when established, was first the use of farmlands, then draining and water preservation, and then rural development. This bill concerns particularly the third objective of ARDA, but the second and especially the first, which is the use of farmlands, should not be forgotten. The point is not to develop crown lands in the wilderness.

The point is to save the 45 per cent of unused land. Today, someone spoke, of buying back uneconomic land. I think the idea is wonderful, but it would have to be put into practice, for I do not know, at least in my region, whether a farmer was paid for his land. I myself asked the provincial agronomist that redistribution of land be arranged, for example in the case of someone who would be willing to sell his lot to increase that of his neighbour by giving him some 300 or 400 acres. But I do not know whether it is ARDA which is at fault or whether the scheme was born out of other circumstances. The idea was to help the farmer, and particularly the farmer's son, to acquire land. There are farmers' sons who are only waiting for that today.

Obviously, a father with eight or ten children cannot buy them three lots each.

The government must help him, not by a loan but by material assistance. I do not say it must give him everything. Let the farmer keep certain obligations but let the government help him halfway, so that he can begin to operate his farm economically.

Convinced as they are, people in our district can see these ills nowadays; they can lay their finger on it. They know they must go

back to the land, that things must change. And this change will not take place without the farmer, first and foremost, and the help of the government. It will not come about by the government fighting the farmer. It will occur when the farmer takes the first step, with the help of the federal government and the provinces, toward complete possession of a farm that will be forever his.

[English]

Mr. A. B. Patterson (Fraser Valley): Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to make lengthy remarks on this proposal. No doubt as we enter into a discussion of the various clauses there will be comments and questions which will arise. At this time I do want to state the support of the Social Credit party for the particular measure before us now. I regret very much that I was not privileged to be in the house when the minister made his introductory address. As all of us know, many of us are supposed to be in two or three places at the same time, and because of that factor I was unable to remain in the house. I understand that the minister made a very comprehensive statement about the background and possibilities of the ARDA program in relation to rural development, and I know that as this program is carried through it will have increasingly beneficial results with regard to the economy of our country. Since the inception of the ARDA program a number of significant changes in its application have been made. In the main I believe the broadening of the application of the act has had beneficial results in many areas of the country.

● (5:40 p.m.)

The Minister of Forestry (Mr. Sauvé) was reported to have said recently that there is no limit to what can be carried out under the present terms of the act. This statement was made in my own constituency a little over a week ago when the minister met with representatives of the various municipalities who were concerned about some areas of development required in the locality. I hope the minister enjoyed his visit to my constituency. I am sure he found those who gathered there were men of vision and competence, men desirous of doing the very best they could for the further development and progress of that section of the beautiful Fraser Valley.

In introducing the resolution on March 8 on behalf of the Minister of Forestry the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Robichaud) referred to the problems of low rural income,