

Grants to Designated Areas

cussed at the federal-provincial conference and that the Quebec Minister of Industry could be approached in this regard, because we are sometimes overlooked even by the Quebec government; as a matter of fact, the Quebec Minister of Agriculture did forget, for a whole year, to mention to the federal Minister of Agriculture that we were in economic difficulties and that we needed assistance.

I am convinced that the minister will take my remarks into serious consideration, because this matter has to be settled once and for all, and the southern part of Roberval county, from St. Felicien, Chambord and Roberval, should be considered as a separate region and the two communities of Chapais and Chibougamau should have their own national unemployment office, in order to better judge the situation in those communities.

I will not elaborate, because I am quite satisfied with the grants offered designated areas; however, I hope that justice will be done. If justice is done, I am sure those two regions will be among the first to become designated areas, since they need assistance.

[*English*]

Mr. H. W. Herridge (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, I will be very brief, but I do want to say I am one who appreciates the Minister's willingness to co-operate in accepting the suggestion so forcefully presented by the hon. Member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) and agreeing to recommend that the Order in Council covering this legislation be referred to the appropriate committee when we return after the holidays. I also want to congratulate the hon. Member for Timiskaming, who I admit could be considered by the Minister as a rather prickly political pear in opposition, for his persistence and determination to stand up for what he believes is the right course of action. I think the hon. Member's persistence in standing up for the things in which he believes and the Minister's willingness to co-operate have brought us to this rather, shall I say—

Mr. Drury: Felicitous.

Mr. Herridge:—mellow mood in respect of this legislation.

● (7:50 p.m.)

Now, I do want to say that in my opinion this is experimental legislation. This type of legislation is only recent in history. I believe Members of the House will be entitled to periodic reports on the operation of the Act,

more than just an annual report. If this measure is to be a success, it must have the co-operation of the Members of the House. I suggest also that Members will have an opportunity, as a result of these periodic reports on the administration and operation of the Act, to make suggestions with respect to improvements that are required, or amendments based on their personal knowledge of their local circumstances and their experience in seeing the Act in operation.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Réal Caouette (Villeneuve): Just a few comments, Mr. Speaker, because I do not want to delay the proceedings of the house, especially as everybody is in a hurry to reach the 1st of July. I know that the Minister of Industry and Minister Defence Production (Mr. Drury) is anxious to reach the 1st of July as much as we are.

We are now considering Bill No. C-129 to provide incentives for the development of industrial employment opportunities in designated areas in Canada and to effect certain related amendments to the Income Tax Act.

Mr. Speaker, I will deal briefly with the proposal effecting certain related amendments to the Income Tax Act.

However, as a representative of a riding forming part of or included in a so-called designated area, more especially Rouyn-Noranda, Malartic, Val d'Or, etc., I wish to point out to the minister that, in our part of the country, for instance, it is unthinkable to set up industries other than the forest or mining industries. That is practically all the development opportunities we have.

Now, our area has dozens of mining prospects, in short a tremendous mining potential, and the government has never taken the trouble to look into the possibility of fully developing this mining area. As a matter of fact, there is no question of setting up a factory of automotive parts, for the good reason that transportation costs are prohibitive. We cannot hope to establish any other industry, or almost, because production costs are also prohibitive. The transportation costs are prohibitive because we are far from large centres.

However, our mining potential is almost unlimited and it is liable to be developed.

We are in favour of tax cuts, but we want the government to take positive steps to encourage new industries or companies to settle there and work the extensive ore bodies in northwestern Quebec. But the government will not listen.