

Rural Development

and has asked parliament to give it a licence to conspire. It has asked parliament to give it authority to fix prices in the field of insurance. Parliament week by week blandly agrees to permit these applications.

I submit it is about time that we sat down and seriously thought about the prospects of bringing companies such as the one now before us within the provisions of the Combines Investigation Act. I have wondered about the prospect of getting the answers to certain questions with which I and my colleagues are concerned, and which as yet have not been dealt with, when this bill reaches the committee stage. I hope that the hon. member for Lotbinière, who did not take the opportunity to explain the purposes of the bill, will do so. Perhaps that could also be done by the sponsor of the bill, the hon. member for Vancouver-Burrard, who is not here now.

It might be better if we were to delay second reading of this bill until its sponsor is available to deal with some of the matters which I have raised and with some of the points other members may want to raise. May I call it seven o'clock, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rinfret): The hour allotted to private members' business having expired, the house will return to the consideration of the business interrupted at six o'clock.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT**PROVISION FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL AREAS**

The house resumed consideration in committee of Bill No. C-151, to provide for the establishment of a fund for the economic and social development of special rural development areas.

Mr. Watson (Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie): May I ask the Minister of Forestry a question respecting clause 4?

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please. When the house rose at six o'clock clause 4 of the said bill was being considered.

Mr. Barnett: Before the hon. member for Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie asks his question, might I ask the minister whether he has considered the question I had raised just before we rose for a trip to the other place?

Mr. Sauvé: The hon. member for Comox-Alberni raised the problem of what programs could be initiated by the Department of

Northern Affairs and National Resources for Indians and how these could be supported by the ARDA fund, the fund for rural economic development or for other ARDA programs. May I say that in the bill now before us clause 7 mentions an advisory board. Assistant or deputy ministers may review the various projects submitted by the provincial governments after an agreement has been drafted by the ARDA administration of the Department of Forestry.

• (7:00 p.m.)

Under this special rural development program which embodies all the details of our rural development projects, if there are projects for Indians they could be financed either by the department of northern affairs from its budget or from the fund for rural economic development, or from other parts of the ARDA agreement. Co-ordination will be at the federal level. It would be done by the advisory board.

Under the new ARDA agreement, paragraph 11, the ARDA program now applies to Indians. Under the first agreement we could not apply this program to Indians, but now it is possible.

Mr. Barnett: Is it the minister's understanding that one of the ten senior officials referred to in clause 7 will likely be somebody in the Indian affairs branch of the Department of Northern Affairs?

Mr. Sauvé: That is my understanding.

Mr. Watson (Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie): Can the minister tell the committee whether any understanding or accord has been reached between the province of Quebec and his department on the application of this measure to Indian reserves located in Quebec?

Mr. Sauvé: The province of Quebec has so far established an eastern Quebec development board region. The development plan is supposed to be ready at the end of June. If they are interested, they will make a proposal to us for the drafting of a special rural development agreement. In the Gaspé region, the Indians are included.

As I said in answer to the hon. member for Comox-Alberni, Indians are covered or may be covered under article 11 of the new ARDA agreement, if provinces so wish.

Mr. Watson (Châteauguay-Huntingdon-Laprairie): Has Quebec indicated any such desire?