

*Rural Development*

privately, and if I have not told him publicly I do so now, that the ARDA legislation agreement with all ten provinces was more than just a written document. It was the work of two federal ministers sitting in this house at the present time. I refer to the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) and myself. We gave our word that ARDA, being a device primarily to raise the income of agricultural areas, would always be under the over-all umbrella of the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers which is, under the very sophisticated reasons behind its establishment, responsible to the two levels of government to see that there is no overlapping of functions between federal and provincial governments as well the minimum possible clash in the proposed use of land, water and air. If I am incorrect in this assessment I know that my colleague from Brandon-Souris will correct me.

I remember the provincial ministers who attended that meeting in the office of the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources agreeing that if it was the solemn pledge of the federal government that ARDA was not a way of imposing the federal government's authority in agriculture upon the provincial jurisdiction, they would go along with it. They recognized that there are other types of uses for land besides agricultural uses and that it would not do to work so hard to redevelop agriculture as to affect unfavourably forestry, recreation or wild life interests.

That is an understanding which was not written into the legislation but was to be honoured and passed on from one government to another. I am disturbed about this advisory board. I am disturbed that there is no mention that the viewpoints and decisions of the advisory board and the minister with regard to special areas will be passed on to the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers. Perhaps it is not necessary to put that into the bill but perhaps it is necessary to state it publicly. It is important to reassure the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers that we look on them as the over-all resource body covering fisheries ministries both federal and provincial forestry ministries both federal and provincial, and all the various ministers. This body must be the umbrella under which we all operate.

The terms of the bill I will not refer to in detail but they can be read in this framework. The bill does not mention the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers. If one reads the bill carefully it seems to suggest that the

special areas fund has been put into a secondary position. For instance, if any other agency can do a job the proposed agency in the bill must back away from the job. It seems to have the power to veto decisions of the minister and the board. I am not going to say any more about that. I think I can say what I have to say more precisely when discussing the details in committee.

I conclude, Mr. Speaker, by making some general comments. The minister was good enough to give us a description of what has been happening in the Interlake region of Manitoba, in northern New Brunswick, in the Gaspé and elsewhere. I have only looked at the report dealing with the Interlake area. It was a good report and well worth the money spent on it. However, I am sure the Minister of Forestry has spotted as I did that the potential of forestry for lifting up the incomes of these rural people has been overlooked.

I expressed this view privately to my friends in Manitoba. You always have to watch these prairie governments. They are so concerned about traditional agriculture that it is difficult to get them to look beyond that furrow and realize there is money in trees. This must be done and this is where the task of the minister comes in.

I have not been able to read the other reports. However, at this time I should like to pay a small tribute to Mr. Hutton, the Minister of Agriculture in Manitoba. I served under Mr. Hutton for a number of years. I do not think any minister of agriculture in any province would mind my saying that I have never met a minister more dedicated, more outspoken on behalf of farmers, or who tried harder to get them to raise their incomes by doing new things, than Mr. Hutton. He has decided to leave his high position in public life and go into the pulpit as a minister. I could not let this opportunity pass without paying tribute to a man who has done great work not only for Manitoba farmers but for farmers all across this country.

Another suggestion I wish to make is one that is going to be very difficult to work out. In deciding how much money should go into various operations there is the power under ARDA, and I believe under this legislation, to use the basis of need. I think hon. members understand what I mean. You do not take the number of people living in an area and say that help to them will work out at so many dollars per head. You take their need for