

Rural Development

● (10:00 p.m.)

It is true some of the projects were accepted, but the cabinet undertook to present these amendments. Otherwise we would not have carried the projects mentioned by the hon. member. It was only when we as a government undertook to present amendments to the act that those projects could be accepted, and that was the only reason.

Mr. Peters: Now that the minister is amending the act, is he not of the opinion that Bill No. C-151 is only an extension of the principle, though into a slightly different field? There really should not be objection to adding this additional section.

Mr. Sauvé: Under the agreements which have been signed and which are an extension to the act, the usual method of contribution is 50-50. Under the rural development fund there is no such limitation. We have more initiative under Bill No. C-151 than we would normally have under this federal-provincial rural development agreement. This is one of the reasons we are presenting Bill No. C-151, though there are a number of other reasons I shall give when we reach that bill.

Mr. Peters: Is it not true that these agreements which have been mentioned under the program are only one section of the act? The financial arrangements are entirely the responsibility of the federal government. There is really no argument against adding this section because of the similarity. I am not suggesting you include the section dealing with the 50-50 arrangements, but the other sections provide for a different type of arrangement entirely.

Mr. Sauvé: Because of the method of financing under the special fund which was created, which can be replenished when exhausted, we felt that we should use the formula used by the Atlantic Development Board.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Ricard: Mr. Chairman, in his explanations, at the beginning of his remarks, the minister said that certain projects cannot or could not be accepted. Can the minister give an example of this?

Mr. Sauvé: Mr. Chairman, a few moments ago I explained to the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) that they were, among others, projects for certain areas of Newfoundland where no farming is being carried out.

[*English*]

Mr. Kindt: As the minister has said, the term "ARDA" has been used for a number of years. In western Canada it is known by that name and has been popularized. It has also been explained that the municipalities and everybody concerned with the act are familiar with that term. There is no need whatever to change the name of the act. I think the minister will have to make an amendment to the bill to bring in the term "ARDA", so that there will be no misunderstanding in the other nine provinces of Canada.

Mr. Sauvé: I already announced that, Mr. Chairman, when I introduced the bill this evening. I said I was going to present an amendment—I have the text here—which will clearly incorporate the expression "ARDA".

Mr. Kindt: One other point. I do not like the word rural because it does not fit in with the types of projects carried out under ARDA in western Canada, or for that matter in all parts of Canada. The word is misleading. I think you should take another look at the word rural, to see if you cannot get rid of it, too.

Mr. Sauvé: I do not understand the hon. member, because the act which was passed by parliament was entitled, "An Act to provide for the rehabilitation of agricultural land and development of rural areas in Canada." It was good then, and it must be good now.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, I have a question for the minister. He has just said that the reason for the change in the name given is that Newfoundland has no farming industry. But I would ask him whether the fisheries act which was applied to other provinces would not have been adequate for Newfoundland also. Does Newfoundland have fisheries like other provinces?

Mr. Sauvé: Mr. Chairman, I gave the example of Newfoundland. There were some cases in the province of Quebec, in Saskatchewan and in Alberta, where there was no farming or possibilities for agriculture. At that time, the Department of Justice informed us that we could not, unless we undertook to change the act, accept such projects.

Mr. Gauthier: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that ARDA enabled a well-located farmer to benefit from ARDA in certain areas.