

Lanark and Renfrew counties. The government and the officials saw fit to provide the designation for Renfrew county but not for Lanark. It did seem that since that date there was some justification for their decision because certainly the circumstances in Renfrew county were severe. But the point I want to make very clearly this afternoon—a point which I made a few days ago in the Committee on Regional Development—is that the circumstances have shifted recently, and now I firmly believe that the needs of Lanark county, and in particular of the Carleton Place region, are equal to if not more severe than the needs of Renfrew county. So I would make an appeal here that the DREE designation of Renfrew be not considered in isolation but that the needs of the wider area be taken into account at the same time.

Following meetings with the Carleton Place officials at the end of February and in March, it was soon revealed that the Ontario Development Corporation was covering the area of Lanark, and so for some weeks in March and indeed in April I was convinced that perhaps it made sense to have the county of Renfrew under the federal plan and the county of Lanark under the provincial plan, and to have a division of responsibilities. However, if press reports are correct, the province of Ontario through its minister, Mr. White, just over one week ago announced, without any prior consultation with the federal government, that no further Ontario Development Corporation forgivable loans would be forthcoming to foreign owned firms. The fact of the matter is, regardless of how any member of this House may feel about foreign owned industries, that many of the firms who are interested in settling in these more remote, smaller towns such as Renfrew or Carleton Place or Almonte are indeed foreign owned. Therefore, one week ago a sudden change was introduced and Lanark county was thrown into a serious disadvantage.

I raised this question in some detail a few days ago in the Committee on Regional Development at its meeting on May 30. I would certainly like to draw the attention of anyone interested in this question to the record of proceedings of that particular meeting as it appeared in issue No. 14, where a very lengthy and detailed discussion was recorded between myself and the officials of the federal department as to just what would be the future of a community like Carleton Place when it was suddenly placed at a distinct disadvantage, since many of the industries that would be interested in settling there with the assistance of the Ontario Development Corporation would now naturally migrate a few miles further to the county of Renfrew to get the advantage of the federal designation under DREE. This is a problem that is extremely serious. If you are in a high density population area it is not so urgent, but when you are in a more remote area where industrial development is more difficult, then a sudden shift like that upsets the whole balance.

I appealed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) at that meeting on May 30 to consider filling this vacuum that had suddenly been created by the Ontario government's withdrawal. I see my time has almost expired, but I would like to conclude by saying that the county of Renfrew needs more time to develop the forest based industry. It needs more time to take advantage of the new industries which we have been able

Regional Economic Expansion

to get, a large number of them spread through the whole area. But I also want to say that in my opinion Lanark county has suddenly had a severe kick in the pants and has been placed at a serious disadvantage. I want to quote one short section from the record of the proceedings of May 30 of the Committee on Regional Development which reads as follows:

MR. McBRIDE: I will ask a question which is really a representation. In view of this statement by ODC, will the minister assure this committee that he will give every possible favourable consideration to the designation under DREE of areas like the depressed areas of Lanark that are now going to be left at a significant disadvantage?

MR. MARCHAND (LANGELIER): We are going to discuss this with the government of Ontario, and if this decision of ODC changes the situation to a large extent, of course it might bring us to revise certain things that we have done.

I want to assure the House and to publicly assure the minister that there are many people in the Ottawa valley today who sincerely wish and hope that the federal government would move to take up the slack that has been created by this change in provincial policy. I want to assure the House that I will do my part to encourage the minister to give every possible favourable consideration to including, especially the northern part of Lanark county which includes Almonte and Carleton Place, in some kind of a special area, or else to meet again with the province and get them to reconsider their action.

In conclusion, I want to say that the federal designation of 1970 has meant that more federal funds have come into Renfrew county than ever before in its history, and this is being appreciated by myself, as the local member, and by the people there. It has brought a whole new future to the area. It must be continued so that we can finish what is now well under way.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Boulanger): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 40, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Knight)—Grain—Request for forgiveness of overpayments to farmers in light of forgiveness of duties and taxes owing by car manufacturer; the hon. member for Frontenac-Lennox and Addington (Mr. Alkenbrack)—Penitentiaries—Suspension of regulation making inmates financially responsible for wilful damage to property; the hon. member for Humber-St. George's-St. Barbe (Mr. Marshall)—Manpower—Local Initiatives Program—Response to requests for additional sums and extension of time for completion of project.