

*Rural Development*

land, soil and water conservation. This is a very important thing at this point in our economic history. On many occasions in previous sessions I asked the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) to consider instituting a national water policy and a national water authority. This is another channel into which the Minister of Forestry (Mr. Sauv ) could direct his thinking, because we cannot have one small area of our great resources dealt with at one time, and another small area at another time. Now is the time to consider a national water policy for the benefit of Canadians, a benefit which will flow to the rural areas as well as to those seeking water.

The minister also mentioned the importance of the social and economic effects on rural areas, and went on to say that farming as such is not the only rural problem. He mentioned education. This is truly worthy of consideration. I do not know how he can project his thinking in this regard because of the constitutional question, but I agree with him. The *Toronto Daily Star* of May 6 carried the following report:

At a conference of county officials in the Lord Simcoe Hotel yesterday, W. G. Rae—

A school inspector whom I personally know well, and who resides in my home town.

—blamed poor rural schools for much rural poverty.

Unquestionably the rural student or pupil does not have the same advantage as the city pupil. This is a ridiculous state of affairs if we want the rural areas to develop to any degree. If we are to spend \$50 million under this bill, this is a factor which deserves consideration. Then there is the industrial side.

● (7:30 p.m.)

A day or so ago one of the government supporters, the hon. member for York North (Mr. Addison), was boasting about the tremendous industrial development along the lake front in the city of Toronto. This is fine; I know this. I pass by there twice a week; but can we not do a little decentralization of this type of industry. Can we not support them to a degree that it will be economically beneficial for them to move into these areas so that they may develop. Then the educational system will develop on the same base. The educational system will serve the rural area in the same way it serves the urban area. It cannot do so now because of the decreasing economic situation which exists. I

[Mr. Winkler.]

can prove that by the census report for the year 1961, which I have before me. I could go down the list and point out a number of municipalities in that ten-year period which have decreased. I am sure the minister will be aware of this, because he also represents a rural area. I consider this to be a responsibility of government. I have been in municipal government and I know what the tax burden at the municipal level means. This may be an oversimplification, but it is becoming simply too burdensome. The only answer is to give them relief.

The people are there and in most cases they are willing to work, and do anything they are asked to do, so long as there is some area of development. Although the population figures for the whole constituency have increased, the decrease in the rural population is explained very simply; it is because the young people will not stay in the rural areas. I have said this before, and supporters of the government have supported this view. Almost anyone in the house who knows the situation in a rural constituency will tell you it is so. I will now depend on the minister to come forward with some ideas, and not five years or ten years from now. We do not want to wait ten years when our families are grown; we want something now for the young people, so that we can maintain their interest in the area after they have received a full and sufficient education.

To support further the view I am putting forward this evening, I have a newspaper report before me from the *Toronto Telegram* dated May 6, 1966, a few days ago. I think this is quite significant because of the fact that it is a report of a speech by a Liberal member of the legislature in the province of Ontario who is from a riding adjoining mine, Mr. Ross Whicher from Bruce, a person whom I know very well. The caption on the article reads "Farms starve, MPP charges". It says:

Mr. Whicher said the provincial government had done nothing to prevent these areas slowly being strangled—

He goes on in strong terms and says:

"We're not just asking for help . . . we're crying for it."

This is one of the areas which was painted as a black area and one which is underdeveloped, and indeed a poverty area. I say there are other areas in the province of Ontario. Mr. Whicher was supported by