

Agricultural Rehabilitation Act

The minister thinks he can go about depreciating our dollar; he thinks he can go about repudiating the guarantee of credit sales and shifting the burden to the farmer; he thinks he can go about flying in government aeroplanes, making private speeches or think-pieces and still be a member of the government. Ministers must learn that you cannot be both a responsible minister and a hot gospeller at the same time, and that sooner or later you must choose which role you have. I say that we want to know. We do not want the minister's vague suppositions. Maybe, while the minister was flitting around making these speeches, the Glassco commission went into the department by the back door. Maybe they did make some recommendations about his department which have not come to the notice of the minister; or maybe the real prime minister over in the other place, the senator whom we never see, is chopping all sorts of sections out of the minister's department while the minister is in Regina making speeches in his personal capacity. Before we start voting this money I suggest that we know what money it is we are voting.

An hon. Member: Five o'clock.

Mr. Pickersgill:—and that we know what is going to happen in the next little while. I suggest to the minister that when we next come back to these estimates he tell us what effect the Glassco commission has had on his department and what effect he thinks it is going to have on his department. I observe that it is five o'clock.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. In order that the house may proceed to the consideration of private members' business, pursuant to section 8 of standing order 15, it is my duty to rise and report progress and request leave to sit again later this day or at the next sitting of the house, as the case may be.

Progress reported.

AGRICULTURAL REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

AMENDMENT TO EXTEND APPLICATION TO INDIAN RESERVES

Mr. D. M. Fisher (Port Arthur) moved the second reading of Bill No. C-22, to amend the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act (Indian reserves).

He said: Mr. Speaker, this is a very simple amendment to the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act. It really does not require much in the way of discussion or explanation on my part. The explanatory notes set out clearly the purpose of the bill. It is to apply the benefits of this act to Indians and their reserve lands. Section 64

of the Indian Act provides that, with the consent of a council of a band, the minister may authorize and direct the expenditure of capital moneys of the band for any other purpose that in the opinion of the minister is for the benefit of the band.

This bill does not originate federal expenditures as, under section 7(2) of the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act, no agreement under that act has force and effect until parliament appropriates moneys therefor. This amendment only authorizes *in posse* agreements between the Canadian government and Indian bands. My reason for introducing this amendment to the act, Mr. Chairman, is a simple one. I feel that potentially this is the best piece of legislation that has been put on the statute books for some considerable time. It is still very much tentative, in embryo, and the projection is in the future. However, I think it may have immense consequences and I wish to relate those consequences to a group of people that it seems to me can benefit immensely from it, particularly if they can take part in ARDA programs in a distinctive way rather than just as side groups of some kind. I refer, of course, to band councils on Indian reserves.

In order to make my point, Mr. Chairman, I have deemed it well to put on the record various views on ARDA as expressed by Mr. Davidson, who is the director of the program. The hon. member for Fort William (Mr. Badanai) and I, since Mr. Davidson comes from our area, think he is an excellent man to lead this program. He went to the same school as I did years ago. In a speech on March 10, 1962 to the Canadian tree farmers association at Ottawa, Mr. Davidson said:

You will note I say "resource development and conservation", for not only is ARDA not an agricultural program in the narrow meaning of that word—it is the kind of program that conservationists who love the land and are keenly interested in the relationship of people and the land, have talked about for a long time.

I put it to hon. members and the house: do not consider ARDA as anything narrow and specifically agricultural. It is agricultural in the very widest sense. Mr. Davidson goes on and says that ARDA is a very complex program and is not easily understood. Later on, he mentions some of the basic thinking or philosophy behind it, and he says:

The concepts of multiple use of resources and integrated development of resources which were central to the "resources for tomorrow" conference are also central "to the thinking" on ARDA. The philosophy of both is closely related. The philosophy of multiple use and integrated development of resources has wide application, and although it may sound a little "far out"—it has proven a highly practical and workable concept.

In addition, there are behind ARDA two, perhaps more specific motivations—the problems of rural