

Regional Development

Industrial and Economic Development in Renfrew County," prepared by a special study committee and published in May, 1969.

The committee strongly suggests that the need for economic development in Renfrew county is obvious. Present and past activities in development of the county bear absolutely no relationship to any realistic appraisal of need.

The common objective of the development programs should be to obtain from internal and external sources—

In other words, we are willing to help ourselves.

—the calculated decision to invest capital in the identified potentials within the area.

The identified potentials such as manufacturing, resource industry, commercial, residential or recreational must be marketable.

The report continues:

This must be a "self-help" program. Even if the county had a million dollars a year to spend on development, it could not hire men capable of making the contributions that an active, alerted county and its citizens could make—

And I might add are making, and will make.

—through a county development organization.

All that I have said concerning Renfrew county applies equally to Lanark county and the mood of most leaders there. The hon. member for Renfrew North and I are not the spokesmen for a population that refuses to do anything for itself. These people are working. They look to government, both provincial and federal, to help but have received no help from the Incentives Act. When Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard it was all too bare.

I want to present the House with some facts that bear directly on the area referred to in this motion. In the province of Ontario there has been a rather marked shift in population, going back even to 1901. From 1901 up to the most recent figures available, the population of the province of Ontario increased by 186 per cent. In the county of Renfrew it increased by only 70 per cent, a growth rate of only about one-third the provincial average.

Recent figures show a marked decline in farm population which is now only about 12 per cent in Renfrew county, a county traditionally known as an agricultural county. Technological advances in agriculture are forcing the smaller farmer into other work, but what work, and where can it be found when in such a situation we have no incentives for industrial development forthcoming from the federal level?

At the Eastern Ontario Regional Development Association Conference held in Ottawa

[Mr. McBride.]

in the fall of 1965 it was predicted that Carleton county's population would double by 1986; that Renfrew county's population would increase only very slightly, and that Lanark county's population would probably decline. As long ago as 1965 the percentage of the labour force engaged in mining, agriculture, fishing and trapping was experiencing serious declines of between 20 per cent and 40 per cent. This just bears out what I was saying earlier, Mr. Speaker, that new and suitable industrial development is needed, has been needed, and will be needed.

In particular, this means industry that can provide employment for the labour force which is already resident there, that can take advantage of the good water and good land resources, and use the main product that is available, namely, forest cover and forest stands from which the higher quality tree species have already been logged out. The labour is in eastern Ontario, and the will and the resources are there. But we are somewhat off the main transportation arteries, and we are somewhat remote from markets. In addition, the required aid at the federal level has not been forthcoming.

There are only about 60 per cent as many high wage earners in Lanark and Renfrew as there are in the province of Ontario on average. One survey a few years ago found that 10.4 per cent of all workers within the province made more than \$6,000 a year. Only a half of that, only 5.7 per cent in Lanark and 6 per cent in Renfrew make more than \$6,000.

I have in my hands here the actual map which delineates the areas that were included under the Incentives Act this year. It would seem to me that the area designated in Quebec follows for some distance the Ottawa River from Pembroke to Fort Coulonge, and goes up to Mattawa before it enters the province of Ontario. There was great concern on the department's part to draw straight and definite lines, but the only place where the map shows straight lines is in the maritime provinces, where the whole region is designated. It would therefore seem to me that what I am really fighting for could have been accomplished by using the Madawaska River instead of the Ottawa River as the original line of demarkation. The regulations under the Regional Development Incentives Act lists some 15 exceptions; that is types of work to which the act does not apply. Included are things such as transportation, farming, primary production, construction, grinding, mixing, etc. Many of these are the very concerns that we have in Lanark and Renfrew