

Rural Development

result of the many surveys which have been made. Again, I congratulate the minister in providing for most members of the house so comprehensive a report on the results of these surveys and the type of work that is being contemplated, and which is being effected throughout Canada.

We believe today as we did in 1961 that this legislation is broad enough to carry on the type of work that is required in order to assist the rural areas of Canada. We are grateful that the minister shows the type of enthusiasm, the type of drive and the type of initiative which is necessary in a minister in order to carry on the work of this legislation, and to do the work it was intended to do.

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to find that the minister has had some advice as to why this act should be changed. I am one of those who was under the impression that the only reason this act was being changed was so that the house would agree to eliminate a Conservative bill and supplant it with a Liberal bill. I am not interested in doing that, as it does not seem to accomplish anything. I was interested to note that the minister made a very good explanation of some of the things that are taking place. As much as the previous speaker, I am interested in the policies which have been engaged in. I am, however, of the opinion that without the legal interpretation that the department may have given to the legislation under which we are operating under, this bill does absolutely nothing one way or another.

I listened to the minister's speech—I am always pleased to hear his speeches—and I was interested to note that in that speech he used almost the same wording he used in the speech of December, 1964—that this is not a new problem. There was an argument as to whether what is contemplated comes under agricultural development or the human resources problem in rural areas. As I say, it is interesting to note that these topics were discussed before, and it is also interesting to note that the topics he referred to were in the interpretation as it originally related to the ARDA program.

The projects that were then alluded to include such things as are reported in the magazine *Western Canada Reclamation* of June, 1963, including such things as study of resource use and development opportunities—and I might say that there is no text. Headings only are used. Also such things are mentioned as rural sociology—which I imagine

is a fairly broad subject covering almost anything in terms of human resources in rural areas. Also mentioned are agricultural economics, including marketing—

Mr. Vincent: Also school buses.

Mr. Peters: Yes. Probably even school buses. Also mentioned is the program of employment. It refers to "Employment, labour, underemployment and vocational training needs." Lastly it lists farm employment and industrial development opportunities, which I assume covers the whole problem of employment not only in rural areas, but in some others.

I am not suggesting that all these things are the same as were originally provided under the ARDA program. I think it is true that the Department of Agriculture of the Alberta government, which is negotiating at least half the contracts in that province, was under the impression that all these things could be negotiated under the act.

The minister in the January and February issue of *Bulletin*, which is a magazine of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, discussed this matter of the expansion into the manpower field in the rural economy, and indicated, as I understand, that there are no limitations to the ways in which the program could be implemented. The article on page 7 says:

Mr. Sauvé reported that there are now close to 1,000 ARDA projects under way. In order to provide concrete illustrations of the ARDA program at work, he selected for presentation an outline of projects which are typical of each of the five major regions of Canada.

The minister then went on to cover most of the subjects that were set out originally in the act.

I do not intend to cover the whole ARDA program, Mr. Speaker. We are not interested necessarily in going over what has been done in ARDA, nor what has been done in each particular region of Canada under ARDA. We are interested in seeing here that the whole program of ARDA be extended as widely as possible to all parts of Canada, and that it be expanded in all fields where it is necessary, and where it is possible.

However, I do not think that this bill does anything one way or another. In my opinion it is just a waste of time. If there were a major legal requirement that we have to go through this procedure, then why not be honest about it?