

*Rural Development*

already a great number of low income families in certain classified areas, it was justifiable for the government to place a special input on the money to help those regions improve their situation. This was not a good thing for Canada as a whole. It was expected then, as it is now confirmed, that the federal government would be able to add to the fund. We now have \$50 million. When this amount is committed—it will be spent over a number of years—then we can designate an additional amount of money. This is part of the war on poverty. The provinces have accepted this principle as being equitable. There are certain areas of the country which more than others require assistance from the federal government. The provinces were satisfied with this arrangement.

**Mr. Alkenbrack:** Can the minister assure the house that the per capita amount, for example, expended in the Interlake region in Manitoba would be originally on a par with the per capita amount spent in those regions of Quebec or in New Brunswick?

**Mr. Sauvé:** It is hard for me to say yes or no because we do not know yet what will be the final proposals of the government and the province of Manitoba. When we draft this agreement for this region it may be on a per capita basis or the province may ask for a contribution of \$5 million for 60,000 people. The province of Quebec may ask for five times that amount or \$25 million, it all depends on what type of programs there will be. We have not yet established any principle with respect to an amount. We are not ready to accept a per capita basis because this will depend on the experience and results of the negotiations between the provinces and the federal government. We might arrive at this formula but it has not been devised and nobody has suggested that there should be such a formula.

**Mr. Caouette:** Mr. Chairman, is it true that these moneys are not going to be spent when there is no poverty? I believe there are no poor in Manitoba, so there is no question of a program under this legislation.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Sauvé:** I think the hon. member for Villeneuve is not aware of what is going on in the interlake region, where 65,000 people are suffering great hardship. Living conditions of some Indians and half-breeds there are such as would not be tolerated anywhere else in Canada.

[Mr. Sauvé.]

• (7:50 p.m.)

[*English*]

**Mr. Schreyer:** I do not like the idea of advertising the extent of the poverty in the province of Manitoba. However, for the information of the hon. member for Villeneuve, I may say that the problem exists, particularly in certain areas. According to the statistics compiled by the province, the extent of the poverty in the Interlake region is rather high. A program is therefore being carried out in that part of the province, and will be welcomed I assume by almost everyone living there.

I rise at this time, Mr. Chairman, to say to the minister that while we really do not expect him to have any specific information as to how many development projects will be entered into in the Interlake region, while we do not expect him to have detailed information, I think we have a right to expect from him some approximation of the magnitude of the spending program in the Interlake region. A comprehensive rural development program may consist of 10 or 25 special projects, and I would not expect the minister to be able to tell us what some of these projects will cost because perhaps they are not even formulated as yet. It seems to me, however, the minister must have a good idea of the total cost of the program—the total cost of each of the three comprehensive rural development programs that are being undertaken under this legislation.

**Mr. Sauvé:** The one we have in northern New Brunswick which covers about 125,000 people will cost in the neighbourhood of \$30 million. What the share of the federal government and the provincial government will be is being discussed now. However, this gives one an example of the magnitude of the programs.

**Mr. Muir (Lisgar):** Can the minister tell us if he envisages any co-operation between ARDA under his department, and ARDA under the Department of Industry, always taking into consideration the part the province would have in the two programs?

**Mr. Sauvé:** This is already happening. We have an advisory board. Actually, there have been some projects carried out under ARDA but financed by ARDA.

**Mr. Forbes:** I should like to direct one question to the minister. We have three designated areas in Manitoba. Would these