

*Government Organization Act, 1983*

Minister of State for Economic and Regional Development, is now a new Department.

The policy announced by the Minister in the new Department is that he is going to let general development agreements die. They have died. They are dying. The one in New Brunswick to which the Hon. Member refers has one remaining component. I accept the Hon. Member's statement that one out of more than 18 remains. It will be news to the Hon. Member but it will die also this year. Then there will be none. When they are all gone, there will be none left. What takes its place?

The Premier of New Brunswick says he is having great difficulty negotiating a new agreement to take the place of the general development agreement. I accept that. It is reported in the press. It is in the synoptic reports of the New Brunswick Legislature. We can stand here all day and quibble about when the one subsidiary agreement is going to die. I would choose instead to urge on all Hon. Members who represent New Brunswick—the Hon. Member is the only one on the opposite side of the House here today, in fact the only one from the Maritimes, and I commend him for his attention and interest—that what we must do is stop playing silly games, get this Minister off his butt and down to New Brunswick to get a new agreement with Richard Hatfield so we can do something for that Province.

**Mr. Breau:** Mr. Speaker, I know there are problems in developing a new general development agreement in New Brunswick, but the Hon. Member should know that one of the reasons is that since his last provincial election the Premier has not seen fit, nor his government, to allocate any money for regional development.

My question did not deal with the statutory base of DREE. I was asking the Hon. Member a very clear question. Where does he see in this Bill the statutory base or the statutory position of the general development agreements change? They are not affected at all by this Bill, so the Hon. Member should stop confusing the issues. I would like the Hon. Member to show me where they are changed and if not—

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** The Hon. Member has made his point.

**Mr. Howie:** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member has asked this question before and I have tried very hard to answer it. The abolition of DREE is accomplished in this Bill and a new department, one of the purposes of which will be to deal with the subject of general development agreements, is created. The Minister of that department has indicated that general development agreements will die. Facts are facts. I believe we must stop playing games with words and recognize the fact that general development agreements as we have known them are done. Let us take it from there and instead of playing silly word games, let us get on with the business of building Canada and building our regions.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I hesitate to interrupt but the period allotted to questions and answers has expired. The Chair calls to the attention of Hon. Members at this point that the next

speaker to be recognized will be the last having a limit of 20 minutes with a 10-minute question and answer period. Subsequent speakers will be limited to ten minutes only.

**Mr. Stan Darling (Parry Sound-Muskoka):** Mr. Speaker, I see by the clock we are fast approaching the luncheon recess. However, it is a privilege and a pleasure for me to make some remarks on this Bill which is of great importance to a great many of our areas, if not all of them.

I have had the privilege of being member of the committee on DREE for a number of years now and, of course, have questioned many Ministers who have held that portfolio. DREE, I believe, was instituted first, Mr. Speaker, back in 1969. As an Hon. Member representing the riding of Parry Sound-Muskoka, which, I must say, is not in the highest economic bracket across this great Dominion of Canada—I still say that, although I see smiles from some of my colleagues—I have no doubt that DREE has in the past contributed directly to the disadvantaged areas. I am one of those who share considerable concern at the doing away with DREE in itself as a regular department, and in spite of the wonderful statements made by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Gray) this spring and later that it is going to be much better, well, I am from Missouri and am looking forward to seeing the concrete proposals which will be made.

In the past, and again in my particular area, I have been put in a tough spot because half my riding is eligible for DREE, that is, the territorial district of Parry Sound, and the other part of my riding, the regional municipality of Muskoka, has not been eligible. Of course, when you come to that boundary, that borderline, I am going to tell you that the haves and the have-nots take a very dim view of it. However, under this new set-up and tier system, the District of Parry Sound is in territory three which, from reports, will be provided grants which may even be slightly higher. The regional municipality of Muskoka goes into a lower tier but at least will be eligible for capital grants and for other advantages which they were denied before.

Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, they take a jaundiced view. The mayors of the various municipalities and the regional municipality of Muskoka and, of course, their industrial commissioners feel they have been left out in the cold for a very long period of time and, therefore, should have their place in the sun at the same percentage or on the same tier as the district of Parry Sound. I have assured them that at least they have their toe in the door and they are going to get something. Of course, it depends on the economy.

Mr. Speaker, I see it is one o'clock, so may I call it one o'clock?

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** Order. It being one o'clock, I do now leave the chair until 2 p.m.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.