

following which a report was published. In the introduction to that report we can read the following:

In very simple terms, the participants felt themselves threatened. A combination of economic circumstances and apparent government disinterest had combined to place in jeopardy, not only their economic destiny but the institutions of which they were a part and, indeed, their very way of life. In speech after speech, the note of crisis came through loud, clear and unmistakable.

• (1410)

The word "crisis", it is noted, is not too strong to describe the situation now facing rural Canadians. Important segments of the society, including many farmers from all parts of Canada, see themselves somewhat abandoned by a society almost totally committed to the industrialization of the Canadian economy. Farms are deserted at such a rapid rate in certain areas that trade and professional services have become no longer viable, educational services have to be curtailed, and whole communities often dating back many generations are faced with the danger of total disappearance.

The agricultural problem, of course, is not a problem existing in Canada only; it is common to nearly every part of the world. It is one of the prime concerns of the European Common Market. Some of the developing countries of the Commonwealth are also in the grip of this problem, having difficulty in marketing their domestic farm production.

The fact remains, however, that Canada is faced with a serious situation in agriculture, and its depressing effects are gradually penetrating the general structure of the whole national economy. The rural poor, forced by economic circumstances to emigrate to the cities, because of the difficulties they find in adapting to the urban environment and in acquiring industrial skills, may rapidly come to represent a new substratum of the urban poor. Twenty-six per cent of Canadians live in rural areas. Obviously, all of them are not poor, but many—far too many for such an affluent nation as Canada—exist in relative material deprivation. I should state here that while the national per capita income in 1970 was \$3,700.00, the farmer's per capita income was \$770.00.

Of course, a reasonable movement of population from the country to the city is not necessarily a disaster. Mobility is, in fact, an essential aspect of modern society. The question is not so much whether there should be a flow of population from rural to urban areas, but how great and how rapid a flow is desirable in social and human terms. Above all, there is one obvious conclusion, and that is that poverty in rural Canada does, in fact, exist. Dr. D. L. McQueen, director of the Economic Council of Canada, in giving evidence before the Special Committee on Poverty said:

The greatest incidence of poverty and the highest per cent of poverty is definitely found in rural areas.

The conclusion is also unavoidable that the most striking disparities in Canadian incomes are not so much between provinces as between the agricultural sector and the nonagricultural sector, in every part of the country.

[Hon. Mr. Michaud.]

As noted in *Rural Canada 1970: Prospects and Problems*, the United States Advisory Commission on Rural Poverty sadly reported to President Johnson:

The people employed in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and mining supply the products and materials for our food, shelter, clothing and manufacturing industries. It seems ironic that those closest to the main-springs of our economic development are those most adversely affected by it. They have borne the brunt of the forces of technological development. Often their increased productivity has been rewarded by lower incomes.

The approach to industrialization, on the other hand, should also be made with caution. As again noted in *Rural Canada 1970*, it is certainly true that a correlation exists between national wealth and industrialization. However, to identify industrialization with development is a vast oversimplification. In many parts of Canada the real opportunity for growth exists in the primary sector of agriculture, logging or the fishing industry. To many of those charged with responsibility for development programs at municipal, regional and even provincial levels, the entire exercise resolves itself into a naive effort to "get some industry in". What industry? Too often the answer is: "Just industry, any industry."

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This simplistic approach to development certainly creates a general picture of hustle and bustle, which may be superficially impressive but can only constitute a recipe for economic chaos. It cannot be stated too emphatically that economic development is an infinitely more complex and sophisticated process than "just getting industry in." Canada's economy is one which relies on vitality and growth in manufacturing and the primary sector. In some parts of the country the growth potential is in manufacturing, while in other parts the primary sector has by far the greater potential.

If those responsible for the formulation of development plans, because they must inevitably focus much of their attention on the promotion of industrial growth, come to dismiss social or ecological considerations as of secondary importance, the net result of their efforts in the long run may be a deterioration of the quality of living.

In his intervention on this particular subject on December 7, Senator McGrand stressed the importance of a more rational development of our national resources as a means to alleviate rural poverty in Canada. Citing numerous examples from various countries of the world, Senator McGrand indicated the many benefits that would be derived from the rational reforestation policy he had advocated. His contribution in that regard is highly commendable.

It is within that concept of the fuller development of our natural resources that I would like at this time to deal with the farming problem as it particularly applies to Kent County, New Brunswick. Kent County is basically a rural county. Its three basic natural resources are agriculture, fishing and lumbering, agriculture being recognized as the most important throughout the years. Recently, however, agriculture has been fast declining and unless drastic measures are undertaken immediately to revitalize