

*Rural Development*

basis rather than on an individual, small locality basis.

What is my proposal? My proposal is that we have to have some type of federally operated agency to carry out the purposes of ARDA, and ARDA includes this special area of rural development. I should like to suggest a name for this agency which we now need and which should be in existence. The minister may change it if he likes, but I would suggest it be called the national land and water services agency. My reason for naming it in that way will become clear as I speak.

In 1934 we set up in Canada an agency under what is known as the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act. As one of those who survived the dust storms of the thirties I look back over the period of nearly 30 years and see what has been accomplished by P.F.R.A., mainly in the southern part of the three prairie provinces, and I have to ask myself why this was not also accomplished in all of Canada.

There are good, constitutional reasons why it was not done. However, now that every single government accepts that the ARDA legislation goes beyond the constitution, I would suggest that if the minister would work out in collaboration with P.F.R.A. the machinery which would have to be set up, the type of administration which would have to be applied and the rules applicable thereto, a bill could then be brought into the house to set up such an organization. I have suggested a name for it which represents what I think the government will find it will have to take part in. If you are going to have land use measures put into effect as a joint proposition between the federal government and the provinces, then some agency will be required to carry them out. If you are going to carry out conservation of land and water some sort of agency will be required to administer the program, particularly in these rural development areas.

● (4:30 p.m.)

To increase incomes in these areas you have to do things such as draining the muskeg, building dams or half a dozen other things that come to mind which will increase income. Then you have the job of scrambling around trying to find someone to carry out such a program, someone who can assess the cost for you. You need an advisory board to tell you what it should cost. This is one of the proper functions of P.F.R.A. If the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Greene) is faced with the

[Mr. Hamilton.]

proposition of doing something of a physical nature, he needs the P.F.R.A. engineers to provide him with an estimate of the cost. Sometimes this is not done by the federal government. The province may do it but the federal government may have some agency that can advise.

The point I want to leave with the minister is that over and over again the provincial governments do not have the machinery for this sort of thing. Why should a province like Manitoba maintain the expensive machinery of P.F.R.A. to handle redevelopment programs? They are glad to turn that sort of thing over to P.F.R.A., sometimes paying part of the cost themselves. When farmers build dugouts, they have them inspected by officials from P.F.R.A., and that is all. But we should have an agency that checks on government expenditures, developments, land use and conservation.

Sir, I should like to propose here a national land and water services agency which would carry out purely federal operations not only relating to ARDA but to other departments as well. It would carry out co-operative programs between the provinces and the federal government. Obviously it would have to work with all departments and not just with ARDA.

Such an agency could assist those provincial governments which do not want to maintain the necessary large staff with skilled people to carry out operations of the sort I have mentioned. For instance, in the case of a dam it takes years to build a staff to plan and construct the dam. Once the dam is finished, the staff are thrown out of work. But if you had a national agency employing such people they could be moved around. A province would not need to ask for help because such services would be officially provided. Under such an organization any work of this kind could be better and more efficiently undertaken.

Next I want to deal with the question of the advisory board. On reading the bill I was a little disturbed about the advisory board. I will not discuss the bill in detail at this stage but just put my thoughts before the house in a general way.

My first reason for being disturbed is that there is something lacking in the bill. It does not show any indication of awareness on the part of those who drafted the bill that ARDA is subservient to and always must be subservient to the Canadian Council of Resource Ministers. I think I have told the minister