

Government Organization

insist, on behalf of the people we represent, that structural changes are not enough. A whole new system of attitudes and priorities must manifest itself. Eminent people such as Dr. McTaggart Cowan and Dr. Peter Larkin claim that the whole world's food chain is imperilled by chemicals scattered carelessly, such as defoliants in war and pesticides in peace.

• (9:00 p.m.)

The question then becomes much more than the cost of a few fish or of some esthetic value such as scenery. Our whole oxygen supply is threatened if we do not mend our ways. The minister has a responsibility to make certain that determined leadership is exercised so that all Canadians can see the government is dedicated to the welfare of future Canadians. He must resist stubbornly any efforts by the fast buck boys to destroy what is irreplaceable. Sir, we will all be watching.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Dumont: Mr. Chairman, we are informed that the house will study Bill C-173 entitled "Government Organization Act, 1969" providing for the establishment of a Department of Regional Economic Expansion with the object of insuring social justice and economic balance, according to the hon. member for Langelier who is the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development (Mr. Marchand). Such legislation would thus contribute to create a decent living standard for those who want to live outside large urban communities.

I would like at this time to remind the minister of his hope that his new department would assist certain areas to further their development.

For instance, let us consider the case of my own riding, the country of "white gold", as asbestos is sometimes called. Its mining would help in the development of this region if industries were established there, and the refining of this crude product would result, for example, in the manufacturing of asbestos shingles, insulating mineral wool and asbestos fibres used in the processing of fibro-cement.

I notice that this bill deals also with the designation of special areas and I quote:

The Governor in Council may, by order, designate as a special area, for the period set out in the order, any area in Canada that is determined to require . . . special measures—

All these statements appear to be very well meant. Should these industries be established in the near future, our 400,000 unemployed

[Mr. Rose.]

would find work, especially those 200,000 who, as everybody knows, live in the province of Quebec. Besides, I think the government would automatically reach its intended objective which would rid Quebec especially of the terrorist activities we are witnessing at the present time.

Who will venture to think that we will be able to prevent such terrorist acts as long as there are economic disparities such as those which now exist.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. I will kindly remind the hon. member for Frontenac that we are now considering Part I of the bill which deals with the Department of Fisheries and Forestry, and not the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. The hon. member will have the opportunity to speak of regional expansion when we come to that stage of our proceedings. I would ask him to confine his remarks to the Department of Fisheries and Forestry.

Mr. Dumont: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your remarks.

Like the previous speakers, I was summarizing the bill and I was just coming to the object of this debate when speaking of the possibility of eliminating certain regional disparities.

As our agriculture is in an appalling state of stagnation, it would be advisable, for instance, to see to it that the province of Quebec is reforested that would be useful to farmers since such an undertaking would represent unusual wealth for the next 20, 25 or 30 years. Moreover, when I heard some hon. members deal with the problems of fisheries, freshwater fisheries and others, I was saying to myself that if we undertook intensive reforestation throughout the country, more fish might survive, because how many times have we not noticed that fish disappear as forest borders move back?

In that connection, I know that everyone who spoke before me recognizes that, in Quebec, people do not live on freshwater fish or miraculous draughts of fishes. But the fact remains that we can surely contribute to progress by supporting the resolutions capable of assuring the greatest development of those industries. In Quebec, we are faced mostly with problems of deforestation. We therefore invite the new minister to turn his attention to this crucial problem. At the present time, if there are 200,000 unemployed in Quebec, it would only be logical to hire them for reforestation work. This undertaking