

Agricultural Rehabilitation Act

refused the right to commercial fishing. The Indian in our reserves has the right to fish on lake St. John only if it is for his own subsistence.

Mr. Speaker: Order. In view of the interest aroused by the hon. member's speech, I hope he can prove that it is his own.

Mr. Real Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, I think the hon. member is only referring to a few notes.

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, those are notes handed to me by the hon. member for Roberval before he left.

Mr. Speaker: Well, I hope the speech we are hearing is that of the hon. member for Lapointe and not of the hon. member for Roberval, because it is quite out of order to read a speech, let alone another member's speech.

Mr. Gregoire: Mr. Speaker, at Pointe-Bleue, in the constituency of Roberval, there is an Indian reserve. Go and see the conditions under which those Indians live most of the time and you will realize that such a situation ought not to be tolerated in our country.

That is why I say that when the hon. member for Port Arthur (Mr. Fisher) puts before the house a bill which would provide better living conditions for the Pointe-Bleue Indians, in the Roberval riding, I think it is the duty of every member of this house to support such a bill wholeheartedly.

Besides, if those Indians were given assistance to develop their own culture, a new tourist centre could thus be built up in that region and that would be of tremendous assistance for the whole population of the Saguenay and lake St. John area.

Mr. Speaker, I should like to point out it is high time that we do something for the first citizens of this country, that is those who were here before the white man ever set foot on this land.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that we will support the bill introduced by the hon. member for Port Arthur.

(Text):

Mr. G. L. Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich): Mr. Speaker, I should like to commend the hon. member for Port Arthur (Mr. Fisher) on the admirable intent, aims and objectives of this bill as he has outlined it. I agree with those aims. I have some reservations, however, as to whether this bill is the best instrument by means of which to obtain those objectives.

[Mr. Gregoire.]

There are two counts on which I have some doubts as to the efficiency of this bill to attain that purpose. The first is about the matter of having to treat the Indians differently. Just before I left my riding a few weeks ago I had a meeting with some of the Indian chiefs. I might point out that I have about a dozen reserves in my riding. These Indian chiefs were concerned with this aspect of being treated differently, and discussed two examples of this treatment.

One of these was with regard to the sale and consumption of liquor; the other one was with regard to an elementary school in this particular reserve which was reserved for the use of the Indian children only. What these chiefs were concerned about was that these children, having associated with Indian children only, on leaving the elementary school and then going to a high school where there are many white people, cannot be assimilated satisfactorily. So the Indians themselves in my area, in any event, are concerned with being treated separately. The proposal put forward in Bill No. C-22, would make the Indian reserve and the council in effect a separate power and we would have to deal with them separately and differently from the other citizens in the region in which the reserve is located.

With regard to that same point may I say this. In my area, for instance, we have what we call a regional plan prepared by the capital regional planning board. This regional plan forecasts the future land use and growth in the area over the next 25 years. The regional plan includes also the Indian reserves. This bill could make it possible for the reserve to be developed separately and independently of the development of the whole area. In the Saanich peninsula, for instance, it is quite possible that in time ARDA might come in. I certainly agree with the hon. member for Port Arthur that ARDA has tremendous possibilities. In my area, for instance, it is possible that in time ARDA might come in by way of assisting in an irrigation scheme. In this area during the months of July and August we have only about two and a half inches of rainfall. It would be difficult to treat Indian reserves within this area differently from the rest of the community. I see a danger of this bill having that effect.

The second point on which I have some reservations is the cost which the Indian councils and bands themselves must bear if this bill passes. Under the present general agreement between the federal government and the provinces, the federal government pays a share of the net cost to the province. Under the present general agreement the