I just wanted to let the minister know that I am very interested in this particular program and I am glad that he is taking a real interest in it. However, I would certainly prefer to see the phrase "ARDA" perpetuated.

Mr. Lawrence E. Kindt (Macleod): Mr. Speaker, I think it only fit and proper to say a few words on this bill and the proposed changes to the act in view of the fact that some of us put in a tremendous amount of work in the initial stages in bringing this act into being. I have followed it with great interest during the past few years and I certainly intend to continue following the success of ARDA.

I should say to the minister, since he has chosen to rename the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act so that it would be known as the Rural Development Act, that I see no purpose in the move. Would a rose smell as sweet by any other name? Actually, I think he now has a title which will not fit.

The ARDA program with respect to projects, is divided into two parts. One section has to do with area rehabilitation and the other with individual farm rehabilitation. Area rehabilitation is primarily carried on under contracts with the individual provinces, but this requires a program. I should like to have the attention of the minister while I am taking to him, if he does not mind.

• (9:00 p.m.)

Farm rehabilitation is a different matter. You cannot rehabilitate farmers by some broad, over-all program; you have to get down to the level of the farmer and co-operate with him. You need a man who is trained in farm management, who can sit down with the farmer and work out a plan. You may have to buy adjacent land to make an economic unit. Then perhaps loans will be needed. The cost is tremendous, but it is worthwhile. You have to undertake a farm management study of the individual farm. You must give personal attention, supervised attention to this plan for the individual farm. As yet, I have seen no indication that such a program has been in operation or that the minister intends to put such a plan into operation. I have not seen any indication he intends to adopt a program for the rehabilitation of the farm in Quebec or elsewhere.

There has been no attempt to try to get agricultural graduates or university trained men in farm management to handle these programs. The minister has not brought forward any plan to take care of the individual farm. He has been looking at the area as a whole. I would be happy if the minister could show me any attempt whatsoever to solve the problem of the individual farm in the programs adopted since he became minister.

Let me say that the word marginal has been used in this bill. I should like to ask the minister what he means by marginal. Marginal may mean one thing in Quebec and it will certainly mean another thing in Ontario. Out west, marginal will mean still another thing. This definition may depend on what you can raise on that land or the income you derive from it. Where do you get the word marginal; marginal to what?

Then, the minister has gone a step further and has referred to lands which are submarinal. If you do not know what marginal means, how can you tell what submarginal means? I would defy the minister to give me a definition of marginal lands in such a broad act. He cannot do it. He is not an economist, and I am. I am telling him, for his own benefit, that he cannot define the word marginal in a broad act such as you have here. I hope the minister gets along all right with this provision, but he is going to be in trouble when he goes out on the hustings. He is going to be asked what marginal land is, and he had better be ready to answer the question.

Let me say a word about soil conservation. This is an important aspect of an agricultural program. I was hoping that this minister, and this government, would undertake such a program in co-operation with the provinces. I was hoping such a program, in turn, would have particular application to raising the productivity of various agricultural lands. If such a program were carried out as it was in the United States, it could be tied into other types of programs by which the pattern of land use could be changed. Soil conservation programs have been tied in to programs to restrict certain crops. I do not know whether the minister's ideas have progressed to that point or whether he has that sort of thing in mind. I doubt if he has. However, if he is going to get into the field of conservation, and if he is going to get the co-operation of the farmers, he will have to get into such things as contour plowing, in order to prevent land from being washed down into the creeks and rivers. Farmers will have to plant soil conserving crops and the minister will have