

foresight to enter into an agreement with the province of Saskatchewan to start construction of the project.

• (1700)

The dam is a source of power for the province, and the waters from the lake are fed into the Qu'Appelle River system, guaranteeing a domestic water supply for the cities of Moose Jaw and Regina. The project has created possibilities for extensive recreational development, not only on the lake itself but also by assuring a water supply in the Qu'Appelle River system. It has also provided a source of water to create Blackstrap Lake as a recreational area for the people of Saskatoon. It has made water available for irrigation in the Outlook area of the constituency.

Irrigation projects are costly in terms of capital investment, and many farmers who have become involved in an irrigation program are suffering from lack of capital. I suggest to the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) that he and the officials of his department, when meeting with representatives of the province, give consideration to the development of a program to assist those farmers who are already involved in irrigation projects, as well as those who have land suitable for development.

The city of Moose Jaw, with a population of 32,000, is the only city in the constituency and is located in the extreme southeast corner. Moose Jaw is the home of the Kinsmen international band festival, the largest band festival in North America if not in the world. It is a three-day festival, held on the May 24 weekend, with competing bands and contestants coming from various parts of Canada and the U.S.A. It grew from a humble beginning in 1950, when there were two adjudicators judging 12 bands, to some ten adjudicators from Canada, the U.S.A. and Scotland judging some 70 bands, 700 soloists and 56 ensembles in 1972.

On behalf of the city of Moose Jaw I wish to invite all hon. members of the House and their families to visit Moose Jaw on the May 24 weekend this year to see one of the most spectacular band concerts and festivals in the world.

The Canadian forces base at Moose Jaw, a training station for Canadian and NATO pilots, is located three miles south of the city, and in 1972 hosted one of the largest air shows ever held in Canada. Some 125,000 people from the three prairie provinces and the northern United States attended. The commanding officer and his men did a commendable job, and it is hoped that with the blessing of the Department of National Defence this show will become an annual event.

The economy of the Moose Jaw constituency is primarily agricultural; there is very little industry. The proximity of the city of Moose Jaw to the capital city of Regina, some 40 miles away, has to a certain extent inhibited the industrial growth of Moose Jaw. There is a tendency for government at both the provincial and federal level to encourage industry to locate or expand in more densely populated centres. The result is that the smaller centres tend to stagnate and later deteriorate, losing the youth who have to leave their homes to find employment.

I hope that the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Jamieson), when considering programs and

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holding discussions with the provincial authorities, will give priority to the encouragement of industrial growth in smaller centres such as Moose Jaw and including some of the larger towns in the rural area.

I am aware of the fact that we on the Prairies cannot expect too much development in the field of primary industry, but there certainly is plenty of opportunity to develop secondary industries to process our agricultural products. This will require, however, the full co-operation of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and a complete restructuring of our freight rates. I would therefore suggest to the House and to the minister that the development of secondary industry in Saskatchewan should be given top priority.

Saskatchewan has been losing population at the rate of 10,000 a year, primarily from the rural areas. Why is this happening? It is happening, not only because of the lack of industrial development to create jobs for the youth but also because of the fact that no attempt has been made in the past to retain the family farm. The loaning policies of the Farm Credit Corporation have been such that unless a young person had capital of his own, or unless a parent or close relative was in a position to assist him, he could not take up farming as a career. The result has been that farmers' sons born and raised on the farm and skilled in farming have no choice, on finishing their education, but to find their way into the labour market or professional field. Once established, they never return to farming.

The small farm development program will not solve the problem. It will require a widening of the regulations under the Farm Credit Corporation Act. I was pleased to hear the Minister of Agriculture indicate yesterday that he proposes changes in the act and regulations, and that he is open to suggestions. I imagine that he will be getting quite a few suggestions from many of the farmers and their representatives from the province of Saskatchewan.

I have been disturbed, however, by the recent announcements of the Minister of Agriculture. His news releases indicate that he advocates marketing boards. If he means marketing boards whose function is to develop markets for products, this is fine; but if he is talking about the supply management type of boards I would suggest to him that the farmers, particularly those in the west, do not want more controls, they do not want more programs like Operation Lift which by threat restricted the production of wheat and which cost the farmers approximately \$600 million.

With all the starving people in the world today, we should be expanding the production of agricultural products by developing markets in the underdeveloped countries. The function of the federal government, I would suggest, is to develop these markets in co-operation with the other major grain producing countries in order that we can produce to the maximum and ensure stability of prices for the farmer.

• (1710)

I would now like to spend a few moments discussing the changes in the Income Tax Act as they relate to the farmer. For many years, farmers as well as fishermen were given the opportunity to use either the straight line part 17 or the diminishing balance part 11 method of