

frame of mind. More likely it is a degree of financial solvency or bankruptcy.

In Saskatoon, the Minister of Manpower and Immigration spoke of the federal government pouring \$60 million into Saskatchewan in 1970 through regional economic expansion, and \$6.7 million into Saskatoon through CMHC. What he did not say, and what he has neither said nor evidently tried to sell the budget makers, are the following facts about his native province: one, Saskatchewan got only two per cent of total federal public works spending in 1970; two, the number of housing starts fell to 993 from 4,425 in 1969 on a January to September basis; three, the number of motor vehicle registrations fell in absolute terms by 5,800 from 1969 on a January to September basis; four, retail sales fell by approximately \$40 million on a January to October basis; five, capital investment fell by approximately \$70 million for 1970; six, gross personal income fell by approximately \$200 million for 1970; seven, the total population of Saskatchewan fell by 23,000 people on a January to October basis.

**Mr. Speaker:** I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired. Perhaps we might proceed a little informally. The Chair is not sure whether there has been agreement between hon. members as to who is to speak next. I do not want to do anything unfair. In the remaining 10 minutes perhaps we could hear from the hon. member for Fraser Valley West (Mr. Rose) who apparently has something to share with the Chair.

**Mr. Rose:** I thought there was agreement with the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas). He agreed that I could go first because of my illness. He was rather shocked—

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I think this would probably be in order as far as the Chair is concerned. The hon. member for Qu'Appelle-Moose Mountain (Mr. Southam) is rising on a point of order.

**Mr. Southam:** I do not want to differ with Your Honour's ruling as to the time I took to make my speech, but Your Honour will recall there was dialogue at great length by two other hon. members, which took up part of my time.

**Mr. McGrath:** I rise on the point of order raised by Your Honour. If the two hon. members cannot agree about who should speak next, I want Your Honour to know that I am ready to speak.

**Mr. Speaker:** Perhaps it would be easier if we called it six o'clock.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Speaker:** I think at this point the Chair might recognize the hon. member for Fraser Valley West.

**Mr. Mark Rose (Fraser Valley West):** I thank the hon. member for Assiniboia (Mr. Douglas) for allowing me to go forward on compassionate grounds. I appreciate it because I have a very bad cold. I would like Your Honour to know that my speech is not to be sneezed at. I

#### *Economic Conditions in Rural Communities*

am interested in this debate. I just left a meeting of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture at which the problems of rural Canada were thoroughly examined. That group expressed its concern for the future of rural Canada. It is important to remember that policies that affect rural Canada ultimately affect urban Canada. I am sure everyone agrees that it is very important that rural Canada be kept as healthy as possible.

I am pleased to congratulate the mover and seconder of this motion. It may be regarded by some as a hydra-headed kind of motion; it gives us an opportunity to discuss matters of concern to particular members. My contribution in the 10 minutes at my disposal may be regarded as rather general. I prefer to think of them as being rather philosophical. They will not deal with any particular program which the government has placed before us but with what is happening in Canada in general.

I have entitled my little thought-piece "A new landed gentry". I say this because in many of the older societies such as are found in Europe and South America the people have been stifled. This is because the land in those countries has been delegated to a relatively few landed families or rural aristocracy. It does not need much study of the lessons of history to see that in Britain and Europe some of the most resplendent of the aristocracy traced their titles back to the huge estates they held over the years. In that situation, in older societies you find a concentration of land held in a few hands and, coincidentally, great masses of landless peasantry held in various form of bondage and, indeed, in some societies into the present century they have been used as agricultural labour.

• (5:50 p.m.)

It is to the landless that the revolutionary first appealed. We can cite the example of the Soviet Union, the Russian revolution. The same thing occurred in China, to some extent in Algeria and certainly in Cuba. I think we can predict that other parts of South America might be on this course. Remember, landless people have everything to gain and nothing to lose by revolting, and so the fight is on. I am sure the ancestors of many members of this House were attracted by the prospect of free land. That was the great appeal of America. So great was this appeal to the landless of Europe that within a century most of the land of North America, certainly in the western part, was taken up. We all know about that romantic era in our history. We harp back to it in all kinds of things like horse operas and television shows.

In Canada as opposed to America, about the same time as the land was being taken up, before the completion of occupation, came the technological revolution in agriculture. So with the introduction of new techniques and machines Canadian agriculture ultimately became so efficient that you could have one man on a farm feeding up to 40 people in the city. At the same time the land was filling up there was a migration of young people from that land into the urban areas, so we did not create in Canada a rural peasantry. I know there is a problem of rural poor in Canada but not to the same extent as in