

*Regional Development Incentives Act*

suggest that we should not promote industrial expansion and build new factories in this country. I am merely pointing out that these are but one part of the economic picture. If the minister really wants to broaden this bill and benefit a lot of industries that really require assistance by expanding and providing employment opportunities, and consequently improving living conditions, then the tourist industry would be the best example of need that I can think of.

I do not want to speak at any length. Suffice it to say that the bill as introduced appears to provide for the type of business to which I have referred. The title has already been referred to in full. I shall not refer to it again, except to say that its intent is to provide incentives for the development of productive employment opportunities in regions of Canada determined to require special measures. This objective does not exclude the tourist and service industries; in fact, they appear to be included. I would say the bill describes perfectly the impact that improved and expanded tourist facilities would make in any part of Canada. I hope the government sees fit to accept the amendment proposed by the hon. member for Egmont (Mr. MacDonald), and recognizes the problems of the tourist and service industries as well as the importance of these industries to the Canadian economy.

I have often stood in this house and made speeches in this vein and wondered whether I was wasting my time. Today I wonder who is listening and what the government is going to do. I have the feeling that the government is going to do nothing, that the decision has already been made. I wonder what purpose is served by my standing up in the house and making a speech. All I can hope for is that if the minister has already hardened his heart against the tourist and service industries and is going to reject this amendment, he will urge his colleagues to do something else for those industries because they badly need help.

If the minister is going to reject this amendment, then I hope he will speak to his colleague the Minister of Finance about trying to get the Industrial Development Bank to loosen up a little and assist the tourist and service industries in times of difficulty instead of merely making loans to them, the first priority of which is to get their money back with interest. This is not the type of benefit that the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) is trying to bestow

[Mr. Aiken.]

on other industries under the terms of this bill.

Therefore I plead with the minister to keep in mind that this type of industry can certainly be of benefit to many regions. It may be that, having considered this amendment, the minister will accept it. I certainly hope this is the case. However, if this is not the case we can only hope that without delay he will consult his colleagues to see whether something else can be done for the tourist and service industries to enable them to compete with the new and enlarged facilities that are being established on the other side of the border in an effort to keep United States tourists at home. The tourist and service industries need this assistance, and they need it now.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Adrien Lambert (Bellechasse):** Mr. Speaker, first I want to congratulate the minister for introducing this legislation which, in my view, will bring about some improvements specially in areas such as the one I am representing here in the house.

The people of Bellechasse and I welcome this opportunity to benefit finally from legislation designed to bring about industrial development in our area.

The prime purpose of this measure is to establish industries in order to provide productive employment opportunities in regions of Canada determined to require special measures.

In my area, special measures are necessary. Many of the workers now unemployed are on welfare; that does not contribute much to the development of the country. I do not blame those people because special circumstances prevent them from bringing their contribution.

Now legislation will promote the development of an existing industry and the establishment of new ones which will enable these healthy people to contribute by their work to the development which is necessary.

Through that legislation, some solution could be applied to another exceedingly serious problem. In fact, many farmers and small contractors have to reduce or give up their operations on account of difficult economic conditions and the government policy.

In that case, as the government decides whether the operations are profitable or not, it happens that a large number of farmers and small contractors become unemployed and I feel that the government, in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture,