

*Interim Supply*

know who is really responsible for them, and I am inclined to believe that they were created in order to confuse the situation indefinitely, so that, individuals or groups of citizens endeavour to accuse the government, the latter may answer that it is not responsible for such a situation, and the provinces will claim that they alone are not responsible for such projects.

Thus, when the time comes to pay, or when numerous and bothersome delays must be explained, the responsibility is shifted from the federal government to the provinces, and from the provinces to the federal government.

The same situation exists in the ARDA program as well as in any other joint program. I will but mention a second one—the famous winter works program.

I wish to protest energetically against this practice of delaying payments. In fact, I do not know what is what, although I live in Ottawa and continuously attend the sittings of this house. Is it the federal government's fault? Is the government of the province of Quebec sleeping amidst its glory?

However, there is one sure fact: hundreds of farmers, labourers, heads of families, are still waiting for the money they earned last winter; they have not yet received one cent.

Mothers and children suffer for lack of the bare essentials, and this, because the two governments do not agree on how to solve their problems. Programs are suggested, studied and planned. In the meantime, children are starving.

Mr. Chairman, what I have just mentioned exists in two parishes of my county, namely Notre Dame de Lorette and St. Elizabeth.

One government is blamed or the other, when the two are not blamed at the same time. But no solution is ever found, nor does money ever come in. To punish the citizens of these two communities located in a designated area, they are told they will not have any work during the 1964-65 winter season. This then, Mr. Chairman, is how the two Liberal governments, in Quebec and Ottawa, solve the problem of winter unemployment in the electoral district of Roberval.

I particularly wish to point out this situation to the minister, since November 1 is drawing near and conditions are still at the same point as ten months ago in those two parishes. I am told that Ottawa is responsible for this, and I am pretty sure the Minister of Labour (Mr. MacEachen) is quite

[Mr. Gauthier.]

unaware of the situation. Therefore, we expect from the minister a clear and outright statement, so that the truly responsible one might be taken to task once and for all.

Second, I should like to revert to the matter I dealt with at the outset of my remarks, that is, the ARDA program.

I point out to the Minister of Forestry that the Quebec government has probably lost sight of the real purpose of this joint program.

The act actually provides that its main purpose is agricultural rehabilitation and rural development. In his speech of September 17 last, the minister specified this object quite well, when he stated at the beginning:

As Minister of Forestry, I am responsible for three distinct programs: the program on forest research, the assistance program for the transportation of feed grain and the ARDA program.

He goes on to say:

In order to include all those programs under a single department, a motion is now on the order paper of the House of Commons to change the name of the department to that of department of forestry and rural development.

On page 4 of that speech, the minister said:

In my opinion, one of the most important aspects of the ARDA program is rural development.

The minister makes a clear distinction between the three main points his department is interested in, that is forestry, transportation of feed grain and ARDA. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, after having established those three points, I will show the minister that in my region the ARDA program is not applied as he wanted it to be.

I go over the various press releases from the Minister of Forestry which I have received and very carefully kept.

We find that, in all the other provinces, an effort has been made to make use of the ARDA program, in some cases through a study, in other cases by developing several pastures, and in still other cases by undertaking drainage projects.

This is evidenced in the releases of May 29, 1964 when the minister announced a study to be made during a trip.

Early next week, two forest rangers of the federal Department of Forestry in Ottawa will leave Fort Nelson in a jet craft 28 feet long on a 1,200 mile trip on the Mackenzie river system.

The minister was announcing certain studies concerning rural redevelopment under the ARDA program.

And there was another project in Saskatchewan, a program of studies of the natural,