

### *Local Involvement*

Now I want to discuss briefly what is being done to prepare the local people for this program.

Mr. Truemner has outlined the work that our Department of Industry and Commerce is doing with respect to regional development and planning. I will concentrate on what is being done with respect to ARDA.

As you realize this piece of legislation is still really only on paper and has not become operative. However, what we are doing is discussing with all the rural audiences that we can the content and intent of the Act as we see it. In doing this, we are attempting to prepare the local people for their participation in the program. Our most intensive effort in this direction was a one-week course for 25 rural leaders at which time we discussed in detail the ARDA program, and the general philosophy of rural development. These people reached the point of developing a suggested administrative framework at both the provincial and local level. They also suggest rather specific types of programs that they felt should be initiated. There is a great deal more work to be done along these lines, but we have succeeded in making the rural people of Manitoba aware of the Act and some of its implications.

In one area, southeastern Manitoba, we have set up an advisory committee made up of five local residents and five governmental people who represent the major resource fields that are likely to be involved in any development programs in that area. This group, I am sure, will be directly involved in the implementation of ARDA in that area.

### *Making the Program Operative*

In order to achieve the most effective long range program maximum local involvement is necessary. My personal opinion is that in order to achieve this it will be necessary to have regional co-ordinators who are in a position to obtain the services of technically trained civil servants and other people who have specialized information of significance for the area to spearhead the program. These people must also have the ability to organize the local residents into working committees to gather the required local information and to motivate them to do the job. This is by no means an easy task, but it can be done. Many of our agricultural representatives have the characteristics necessary to carry out such work. However the agricultural representatives have traditionally limited themselves to agricultural development and therefore need some additional training in other related fields.

I would suggest that provisions should be made under the ARDA legislation to give these people the needed training. In so doing we would be investing training funds in proven work horses. Because these men are mature individuals with growing families, assistance during their training period is necessary.

My remarks have been limited to the work that we have been doing, and are planning for the marginal and sub marginal areas. We are equally active in agricultural development work in other parts of the province carrying out programs that were outlined in Manitoba's submission in 1959, and many more. For example, we now have about 600 farmers enrolled in a four year program of studies of farm management. Also, through the efforts of our Minister of Agriculture in January of this year, we were able to conduct a one-week TV course on farm management in its broadest sense. We were thrilled when we learned that 70 per cent of the farm people who have television sets followed the program for an hour and a half for five consecutive days.

That concludes my presentation, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN: I must say, Mr. Kristjanson, that your brief was a very excellent and precise report.

Do honourable senators wish to question Mr. Kristjanson now or would you rather wait until we hear from Mr. Truemner?