

Regional Development

a result of the new decision, I referred to it as a camel's back. As the hon. member for Lanark and Renfrew mentioned, the line goes up the Ottawa River, over to Nipissing and up into northern Ontario.

In closing I thank the House for its indulgence. Let me once again congratulate the hon. member for Lanark and Renfrew for sponsoring this motion.

Mr. Blair: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member who has just spoken permit a question? I wonder whether he shares my view that perhaps designation in this area should be reviewed in depth with the idea of looking at the whole of eastern Ontario, including Grenville and Dundas counties.

Mr. Hopkins: Mr. Speaker, we in the upper part of the Ottawa Valley are not biased in any way. I should be only too glad to go along with the hon. member's suggestion so long as we all get something for the benefit and good of our communities.

Mr. Arnold Peters (Timiskaming): Mr. Speaker, coming from the upper, upper Ottawa Valley I am pleased to note the support by the hon. member for Renfrew North (Mr. Hopkins) of the motion by the hon. member for Lanark and Renfrew (Mr. McBride). Let me inform those hon. members that there is something they can do about this matter if they have perseverance. Timiskaming was not designated under the old concept, but was so designated after a great deal of fighting. Hon. members should remember that these areas depend for designation on the contents of the monthly reports. A report is made every month, but there has been no notice of any plant establishment with the exception of one in New Brunswick. It was assisted by the federal government. The company involved was financially successful and probably would have built the plant in any event. It was assisted in an attempt to prevent the company moving to the United States. I think that was worth while.

I would be the first to agree with the hon. members for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Aiken), Lanark and Renfrew, Renfrew North, and Grenville-Carleton (Mr. Blair). Grenville is just outside Ottawa and is not doing badly. It has one hell of a good industry, namely, the National Capital Commission. That organization has been very prolific in this area.

Under the new program we follow the growth centre concept: The designations that have been made have certainly not been good

[Mr. Hopkins.]

and should be reviewed. The designation of areas such as Montreal and Quebec City is not in keeping with the idea of growth centres, in relation to other parts of Canada. I see no reason why areas like Lanark, Renfrew and Renfrew North should not be subject to this growth centre concept. They have problems similar to those which exist in other areas. They are losing industry because industry has in the past been related to natural resources. The Renfrew Valley area was well known for its lumbering and forest industry. It has lost a great deal of growth impetus because of decline in that industry, and is in need of secondary industry.

The sponsor of this measure should also consider the role played by provincial governments in respect of designation. The province of Ontario is much more interested in following its own incentives program than in co-operating with the federal government's scheme. This is very obvious because the provincial government has moved its program to within five miles of Toronto. It is almost impossible to consider the growth centre concept when pitting any area against the city of Toronto.

I have had an interest in this matter for a long time because my area is desperately in need of secondary industry. Let me put this point to interested hon. members other than those from the northern part of the province. There is an argument to be made for the principle of nationalizing industry. The only industry we have been able to assist in a designated area of northern Ontario is one that intended to move into that part of the province in any event. I have in mind a resource-based industry which wanted to take advantage of the government's bonus offer. The incentive provided that industry was not the deciding factor; I suggest it would have developed in the area without such assistance.

I am not interested in this type of program and I am sure the hon. member for Renfrew North and the hon. member for Lanark and Renfrew are not interested in that type of assistance. We are interested in developing industry in these areas with the assistance of the government. If the government indicates a willingness to help industry, I am sure companies will make an extra effort.

I was surprised to hear the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Stewart) announce on television that he is going to Europe to encourage companies there to move to Ontario. If he is successful in his search for new industry, and I hope he is, he will be