

*Government Organization*

the government to do anything which benefits individuals. Having been around here for 11 years, I suspect that government only does those things which benefit government. Here is a huge land mass in the province of Alberta, a wealthy province in the eyes of the federal government, one which does not receive equalization payments. Here is a large area which fully qualifies to be a special area under the terms of clause 39. Indeed, it is already named as a special area. There is not a municipal government in the whole region of which I speak. The ratepayers cannot vote for a reeve or for councillors. Since it has been designated as a special area, the government of Alberta appoints an administrator with special powers to encourage economic development.

● (9:40 p.m.)

Let me tell the minister that economic development has not taken place in special area No. 2 or special area No. 3. Adequate opportunities for employment have not been forthcoming. People who remain in those areas have provided for themselves and their families because they have had the initiative and the will to do so. But the areas have not grown or participated to any degree in the general growth of the province of Alberta or the country as a whole.

In administering the act, the minister should pay particular attention to special areas No. 2 and No. 3. The minister might ask me how he does this. I could cite a number of industries that attempted to set up operation in those very areas. For example, I was enticed into joining a manufacturing company which my financial knowledge and all the rest told me was a bad venture. Since I was a representative and must show some faith in the area, I invested some money, though not a great deal. This particular manufacturing plant has existed for four years now in the town of Hanna and has not received one red cent of assistance from the federal government, though it could have done with some. Even a request for a loan from the Industrial Development Bank was turned down.

Huge grants have been given to United States subsidiaries in the province of Ontario, subsidiaries that no more needed those grants than the minister needs to fly to the moon, though there may well be good cause for him to fly to the moon. U.S. subsidiaries have also received grants in the province of Quebec as well as U.S. oil refineries that were built in Newfoundland. Contrast that with the situation in Alberta which has to contribute dearly

by way of equalization grants to the provinces of Newfoundland and Quebec.

In view of this, why has not this whole area to which I refer in what you might call the central or east central part of Alberta received some attention from the federal government in the form of loans, let alone grants? These special areas have received no assistance because the people in the area have fairly good incomes and either own or lease from the provincial government huge tracts of land.

This clause provides for the making of regulations respecting factors relating to the inadequacy of opportunities for productive employment. I emphasize the words "opportunities for productive employment". Opportunities for productive employment have not been provided in special area No. 2 or special area No. 3. Since the federal government feels it should subsidize U.S. subsidiaries in Ontario, a wealthy province, and in Quebec, another wealthy province, as well as in the maritimes to enable them to compete with the very industry that allows Alberta to contribute money to equalization grants, surely the minister should pay some attention to areas in western Canada that are in need of opportunities for productive employment.

Hundreds of people have left this area of which I speak during the last 20 to 30 years. Between 1940, when times in Canada were considered relatively good owing to the second world war, and 1969, a period of 29 years, special areas No. 2 and No. 3 in the province of Alberta have seen large numbers of people leave because of the lack of employment opportunities. The province decreed these districts designated areas some 34 years ago. Yet, under the designated area legislation this parliament passed some four years ago no attention was paid to them.

Under this legislation the minister is given huge powers to allow him to develop areas in any part of Canada. Surely, he can pay some attention to a part of western Canada that has not kept pace with the economic growth of Canada as a whole. I urge the minister to correct this situation after this bill is passed. Let him not set up nine criteria as was done under ARDA. ARDA was first of all set up to develop resources in order to enable people to provide for themselves. Actually, all Albertans want is an opportunity to provide for themselves. That is all that the people in special areas No. 2 and No. 3 want. They do not want handouts.