

sure that if he wants to, he can reach an agreement with them with a view to setting up a joint program.

The northwestern region is a designated area and its population is now leaving it. In order to enable the industries to develop the already existing resources, roads must be built. Therefore we ask the minister to get in touch with the Quebec authorities, in order to develop this region.

The department is willing to devote rather important sums to the development of processing industries, but we must have access to raw materials.

In my opinion it would be desirable to reach an agreement, to get in touch with the Quebec government with a view to getting its co-operation. Indeed, the government has funds it could devote to the clearing of northwestern Quebec and of the Northwest Territories as well—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Béchard): Order.

Mr. Martin O'Connell (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I quite understand the interest of the hon. member for Abitibi in the development of northwestern Quebec and particularly in the building of the road from Villebois to James Bay which is undoubtedly a project of great interest for the people of the area.

Last week, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) received a letter from the La Sarre Chamber of Commerce asking for financial help for the construction of that road.

In view of the fact that this request is now under consideration, it is much too early to announce what decision will be made in this respect. However, I should like to point out to the hon. member that the building of roads comes mainly under provincial jurisdiction and that according to the departmental terms of reference, financial help can only be granted for that kind of project if it comes within the framework of the special area program. Furthermore, such projects have to be essential to the success of a development plan prepared for that area.

Therefore, the minister will have to take this important factor into consideration in the answer he will give to the La Sarre Chamber of Commerce in the near future.

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

[English]

IMMIGRATION—DEPORTATION OF DESERTERS
FROM U.S. ARMED FORCES

Mr. David Lewis (York South): Mr. Speaker, I asked the Solicitor General (Mr. McIlraith) earlier today whether he would order an independent inquiry by a judge or other person into incidents which occurred in Vancouver, or in British Columbia, on January 25. These incidents involved three United States army deserters who had entered Canada legally a couple of weeks earlier and who were on the evening of that day deported from Canada, in my submission without authority, without any deportation order, without the necessary warning and without any resemblance of lawful activity by officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

This matter is of the utmost importance. I would remind hon. members that some months ago the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. MacEachen) laid down the policy—I am summarizing it—that the military status of entrants to Canada from the United States was irrelevant and would not be taken into consideration. Therefore, the fact that these three young men were United States army deserters is irrelevant to our consideration.

My information is that they came into Canada legally some weeks ago; that on January 25 they were taken into custody, or apprehended or in some other way led from Bridal Falls to Huntingdon by two RCMP officers; that at Huntingdon they were interviewed by an immigration officer called Smith who found they had entered legally into Canada and that there was nothing wrong with the situation. I understand that one of these men telephoned the Reverend Hewett, a minister in Vancouver, from the Canadian immigration office in Huntingdon and said to him, "We are about to be deported. We do not want to be deported. Can you help us?"

These three young men then found themselves on the United States side under arrest. Who got them there? How did they get there? There is conflict between the information given me by Don Rosenbloom, a lawyer in Vancouver, by the RCMP officers in British Columbia and by the minister in a letter dated February 3.

● (10:20 p.m.)

The officers in British Columbia suggested that these three men wanted voluntarily to go to the United States, the kind of suggestion that only a fiction writer could have thought