

*The Address—Mr. Jorgenson*

of qualifying under the area development program, I think they are justified in complaining and feeling discriminated against.

In the areas of Altona, Steinbach and Morris, considerable effort has been made by community development corporations to induce industry to settle in those areas. They have met with some success. A great deal of attention was given to the problems of the urban areas and they were very eloquently and ably presented by the hon. member for Hamilton West (Mr. Macaluso) earlier today. I share his concern with the problems of the urban areas. However, it seems to me that with all the difficulties that they face such as transportation, providing housing, providing the services that are necessary in order to accommodate the ever increasing urban population, it would be far better to attempt to remove some of the industries into the smaller rural areas where there is a labour force and where there are facilities that will accommodate the development of industry. In the Pembina valley they find that, as a result of the application of this area development program, they are competing unequally, first of all with the city of Winnipeg and, second, with the other areas of the province of Manitoba that have been included in the area development program. It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that this is grossly unfair to the people of these areas and adds impetus to the exodus of the young men and women in these areas.

It seems to me that the criteria used for the establishment of an area should be based not so much on the unemployment insurance figures as on the income figures. Some attention should be paid to the suitability of the area for industry and the availability of water, communications, power and so on. Last, but perhaps not least, it seems there is an ever growing tendency in this country to locate our urban areas on the best soil in Canada. This is being done at a time when everybody is talking about the need for expanding the production of food. It seems to be the height of foolishness to place concrete on the best land we have in this country. Here is the situation in which we find ourselves. The government is providing incentives to increase urban development on the one hand, and on the other hand is talking about the need for expanding food production. They talk about rural development and about diversifying industry, yet the incentives are provided in the wrong direction. I hope when this matter

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comes up for review by the government, and when it is brought before this house, steps will be taken to ensure there is no discrimination against some of the rural areas of Canada that are endeavouring to pull themselves up by their own bootstraps. I hope, too, no further barriers will be placed in the way of the development of the rural areas.

I should like now to deal briefly with the question of agriculture. I noticed also in the throne speech that there was a reference to providing credit to agriculture and co-operative societies. I welcome this measure since on numerous occasions, I have drawn the attention of the minister to the need for such a program. I am happy to see it included in the speech from the throne this session. I hope they will proceed with the program without delay. The hon. member for Nicolet-Yamaska (Mr. Côté) seemed to be quite happy with the measures suggested in the speech from the throne so far as they applied to agriculture. He made some reference to some measures that have already been adopted by the government in order to deal with farm problems. I should like to believe, myself, that farm problems do not exist, but reality forces me to the obvious conclusion that such is not the case. Certainly, the buyers' strike we find out west is not an indication of happiness on the part of the farmers there. Certainly, the march that is going to take place on Ottawa by the dairy farmers would not lead one to believe there is complete happiness amongst that group. The housewives of this country have formed protest groups against the rising cost of living. These and other signs certainly seem to indicate to me that the government has plenty to worry about so far as agriculture is concerned.

• (5:00 p.m.)

On several occasions the minister has made trips out to western Canada, and on each of these occasions he has bravely tilted at windmills. First it was the railways that caught it, then the banks, and on the third occasion he was out there he railed away at the big business interests. But when he comes back to Ottawa, Mr. Speaker, he is all meek and mild. I want to tell the minister that he is fooling nobody, certainly not the farmers in this country. He had better not consider them rustics who like to hear pious platitudes. The farmers want action, they demand action, and action they will get.