The Address-Mr. Gray

Sound, useful and effective though the incentive program can and will be, the department must go out and sell it and make it known to the Canadian people, especially those in the development areas. As an example of what can be done, I should like to tell the house about something that is being organized in my own city of Windsor, which I have the honour to represent together with my colleague the distinguished member for Essex East (Mr. Martin). It was just announced last Friday afternoon that the Department of Industry and the area development agency will participate in a special industry incentive seminar which will take place in Windsor, Ontario, on March 25. Those who will take part in this seminar will include senior officials of the department and the area development agency, and they will conduct informal discussions about the new tax incentives. This seminar has been organized by the greater Windsor foundation, the Windsor and district labour council, the Windsor chamber of commerce, the greater Windsor industrial commission and the city of Windsor. Invitations are to be extended to businessmen, industrialists, local union presidents, contractors, accountants, lawyers and builders mainly in the Windsor area but also in other parts of Canada and the United States.

This seminar, Mr. Speaker, is the first of its kind and I hope it will serve as a model for similar gatherings in other parts of Canada. I think hon. members might be interested to know that the initiative to hold this seminar came from the community itself. It reflects the new and positive spirit of Windsor, a spirit of co-operation and teamwork to help the community of Windsor move forward. This spirit is reflected in the way that business and labour are working together on this and other projects in our community. As an example of this community spirit, I would point out that the steering committee for the seminar is composed of Dr. W. G. Phillips, president of the greater Windsor foundation and head of the department of economics of the University of Windsor, as chairman; Frank Quinlan, president of the Windsor district labour council; Charles Gordon, president of the Windsor chamber of commerce; Cuthbert Andrews, chairman of the greater Windsor industrial commission and John Adamac, city clerk, representing the city of Windsor. The fact that these men have worked together in this way may surprise many people outside of Windsor who have some rather weird, faulty and inaccurate notions about the Windsor area. But this effort is typical of the positive climate that exists and has existed for some time in our community.

I hope that the nature of the sponsorship and organization of this seminar will be noted throughout Canada and that business leaders, representatives of the press and news media generally, will come to Windsor not only to cover and attend this seminar but on other occasions as well to sense Windsor's positive climate and to see how it is moving forward. This is what our Liberal program of area development can and should mean for Canada-not charity, but a way to help people help themselves, to make use of the abilities and skills available in their own communities in every part of our country. In this way, Mr. Speaker, they will create better lives for themselves and a better Canada for all of us.

Mr. Aiken: Will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Gray: Yes.

Mr. Aiken: In his remarks about my speech last Thursday, the hon. member stated that I had manipulated the figures to produce the result in percentages. Can the hon. member tell me in what particular way he feels the figures were manipulated, in view of the fact they were taken from the government's own literature?

Mr. Gray: I merely attempted to suggest the hon, member presented his figures in such a way as to buttress his argument, with which I do not happen to agree and with which I do not believe the Canadian people agree.

Mr. Danforth: I should like to ask the hon. member a question, and I shall try to stay out of partisan politics. I was interested in his explanation of the seminar and his explanation of what this government has done in these designated areas. Since the hon. member has looked up the figures for Chatham and Windsor, can he cite one single instance of a major industry coming into our area since this program has been initiated as a result of the special concessions made by this government?

Mr. Gray: I made it very clear that this program had been in existence for less than three months. There are already over 103 applications under consideration, and they must be checked to make sure that they qualify under the law. This is not something that is done in a few days or a few weeks. However, I believe the hon. member will find that before too much more time goes by this program will have positive benefits for Windsor and for his community of Chatham. I think he should speak in a way that would encourage this program rather than trying to destroy the positive effects which I know it can have for his community and for the whole country.

[Mr. Gray.]