

Regional Development

Mr. Hopkins: Let me just answer that comment. There was a big switch from Liberalism to a minority Conservative government in 1957. In 1958 there was an even bigger switch. In 1962 there was a partial switching back, followed in 1963 by a big swing back to Liberalism. These were the years when the people who were the establishment in Ottawa gained headway, and they did so because members were not left in Ottawa long enough to gain experience, to get their feet solidly enough on the ground to fight their political case. I think it is a mistake suddenly to make big switches of the 1958 kind in the House of Commons. It is bad for the government, and it is bad for Canadian history. I hope I have clarified my original statement and I still stand by it.

In Renfrew county there is a need for forestry development. It is an excellent area for the promotion of tourism. I refer to the townships of Nipissing, which are south of Algonquin Park, and the town of Pembroke, where the municipal taxation level is already high. If many new industries were brought to the area they would suffer a heavy tax burden in order to pay for the services they would require.

Having studied this legislation I have come to the conclusion that the measure best fitted to our situation in Renfrew county, in the district of Nipissing, and in Lanark county is the legislation that passed the House on March 24, 1969, known as Bill C-173. Clause 24 of that bill dealt with special areas, which is what I am talking about, and provided:

The Governor in Council, after consultation with the government of any province, may by order designate as a special area, for the period set out in the order, any area in that province that is determined to require, by reason of the exceptional inadequacy of opportunities for productive employment of the people of that area or of the region of which that area is a part, special measures to facilitate economic expansion and social adjustment.

The beauty of this legislation is that not only do its sections relate to the development of tourism and the promotion of reforestation projects, but also to the provision of money to build up the infrastructure of a community, the burden of which normally falls entirely on the taxpayers of the municipality. This type of legislation will do a tremendous amount of good in areas mentioned by the hon. member for Lanark and Renfrew and myself today.

As I have mentioned, although the groundwork for this decision was done by federal and provincial civil servants, the decision was

ultimately one for cabinet. When the announcement was made, one of the provincial MPPs in my area, who is one of Mr. Robart's cohorts in Ontario, said that the Ontario government had tried to get eastern Ontario designated, particularly Renfrew county, but that the federal government had its mind made up even before consultations took place.

I have before me a clipping from the Pembroke *Observer* dated September 3, 1969, which I forwarded to the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. When I demanded an explanation, the department first of all asked me who Mr. Yakabuski was. I explained that he was the provincial member for Renfrew South. This article reads in part:

Mr. Yakabuski said he went to all levels of government in Ottawa to find out just what happened. "A civil service source found that consultations had been made and included a suggestion to put eastern Ontario on the map for industrial incentives, but no agreement could be reached."

I have been informed that at no time did the Ontario government officials ever put forward a case for the designation of Renfrew county. No Civil Servant in Ottawa had ever been contacted.

Turning now to another matter, my area was designated under the ADA program for a short period of time. In 1963, when the government of the Right Hon. Lester B. Pearson took office, the number of unemployed listed in the town of Pembroke was over 3,000. We were placed on the designation list at that time. I remember speaking during the last Parliament following the designation of Pontiac to the east, Nipissing to the north and Parry Sound-Muskoka and Haliburton to the west. In that speech I referred to Renfrew county as the Gulf of Aqaba stretching up into the sea of designated territory.

● (5:50 p.m.)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member but his time has expired.

An hon. Member: Carry on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Is there unanimous consent to allow the hon. member to continue?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Hopkins: I have almost concluded my remarks, because I know the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) wants to speak. Looking at the map which was distributed as