

Income Tax Act

in his speech on September 30 at a meeting in Washington of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. I think the minister attended that meeting or had representatives there. The article says:

In blunt terms he criticized countries that permit wild inflation.

What has been the position here since April 8? The cost of living went up by three points, while under the former administration it increased by only six points in six years. I do not know whether this would be termed wild inflation, but it is certainly rapid inflation. What are we doing to stop it? We are doing very little in the budget and nothing in Bill C-95. The article continues:

He hit hard against the grabbing of private businesses by governments.

Under this bill we will have greater control and greater bureaucracy. Mr. Woods went on to say:

Progress will come fastest in countries that attract private capital.

What are we doing under Bill C-95? We are discouraging foreign investment. Mr. Woods went on to say:

...give private enterprise a chance to flourish and expand. These ideas... brought a few cheers.

I do not know whether the minister was one of those who cheered, but there certainly is mounting concern throughout the world at government bureaucracy, and at governments placing their peoples in strait-jackets, not allowing them to expand industry and create work opportunities.

We have heard a lot of talk about depressed areas. How are they decided? The Minister of Industry has circulated a sheet of paper outlining the depressed areas and how they were placed in that classification. He said they were basically areas of slow economic growth and that N.E.S. figures were used.

In this connection it was interesting to hear the hon. member for Renfrew South speak of his area as a possible depressed area. He led us to believe that its timber resources were now depleted and that it should be considered as a depressed area. He said that with that vast depleted forest industry one part of his constituency had been left in a depressed state; but it is interesting that in the 1961 census for Canada, under the heading forest products, the total value in Renfrew county was \$916,519, the greatest total forest value of any county in the province of Ontario. The next county in Ontario had only half that forest product value in a given year; yet he led us to believe that his county was a depleted forest area.

I only point this out to illustrate the difficulty of trying to put your finger on one part of the country as a depressed area, and

on another as not. One part of my constituency actually made application to the previous government to be considered as a manpower surplus area which needed incentives, but almost overnight that area has now been told it is no longer a manpower surplus area and cannot be considered under the new depressed area legislation. It has no opportunity to appeal that decision. The minister was invited out there but he did not come. He said he was looking at statistics.

I am not like the Minister of Agriculture. I do not think statistics are for losers, but I do not think they paint an accurate picture of a given situation. In any case they do not take into consideration many of the feasible and practical applications that actually are at work in the economy of given areas of the country. Certainly much thought must be given to determining depressed areas. I was interested in the suggestion that an area development agency would be set up in the Department of Industry to assist in the economic development of the designated areas. Has this development agency been set up yet? What is the representation on it? I should like to see the representation contain members from Alberta and western Canada generally. Certainly when one looks at the 1961 census figures he realizes that Alberta has grown faster populationwise than any other province in Canada. Why has it? Because of the development of industry which has been financed to a large extent by foreign investment.

Certainly there should be men from Alberta on the development agency. Maybe they could offer wise counsel and wise advice when consideration was being given to what and where should be a designated area. With respect to part of my constituency, I could quote the census figures to show that in 1921 there was a certain population, that in 1931 the population was nearly the same, that in 1941 it had not grown and that in 1951 and 1961 the population was the same. Over a period of 40 years the population remained the same. Would you not determine that area as being one of slow economic growth? Would you not determine that area as being one certainly in need of industry incentives?

Apparently the minister did not wait to establish the area development agency before he picked what he called depressed areas. I think he should have. He should have taken counsel from all across Canada before making these rapid-fire decisions. This is all part of the 60 days of decision and perhaps the only part they have not yet withdrawn.

I look at the list of designated areas and I wonder what similarity there is to the patronage list of the Postmaster General. I wonder