

Supply—Agriculture

and does not indicate at all that any direct action will be taken for the province of Quebec.

What we need, is an organization strictly for Quebec; it does not matter whether we are given a department for eastern Canada, an associate minister or even a joint program for eastern Canada. What we need is an organization that will make a direct contribution to the economic and agricultural life of Quebec. That is why we expected in the past years the appointment of a minister of agriculture for eastern Canada.

Today the government seems to be playing upon words. But as far as we are concerned, the issue is very clear. We need an agency of our own. Let it be called a joint program. Besides, all other provinces do have specific joint programs for their particular fields. Thus, we would be satisfied with a joint program, although we are usually against such programs.

Instead of renovating Quebec farm lands, I think that the new legislation will help to renovate forests and to develop our rivers.

We had a magnificent instance of it when the ARDA legislation was discussed during the last few days, and we dealt with every waterway in Canada instead of the rehabilitation of the land.

Instead of going back to the farm or to the land, I have a feeling that, tomorrow, we will return to the bush. Anyway, as ARDA is no more part of the Department of Agriculture—but as I do not want to be out of order, I shall come back to that famous legislation when the estimates of the forestry department are introduced, as it is today the only way to get around to the land.

In spite of all these gropings on the part of the government in the field of agriculture, I shall try to salvage a few crumbs from that plentiful budget, for the benefit of my province, by calling the minister's attention to two main points.

The first one is the creation of joint specific schemes for the province of Quebec, as we hardly can hope to get rid of those policies, which always aimed at helping the provinces which were poor once, but are poor no longer.

Second I am asking the government to amend the Farm Credit Corporation Act, in order to adjust the federal loans to the economic structures of farming in Quebec, which is not at all similar to farming in the west, and consequently cannot be subjected to the same rules.

If we consider the joint programs of the last few years, we find that 80 per cent of that joint planning was meant for the western provinces.

More particularly in the last two years, we have been begging the successive governments to put an end to those famous schemes and give back taxation powers to the province of Quebec, so that it may revive its own farm economy.

The budget shows us that the federal government gives two kinds of grants to the provinces. First of all, by applying general programs to all provinces without distinction, second, by resorting to specific programs for each given province.

In the first case, we find that the programs are set up in very broad terms, and thus cannot efficiently apply to Quebec; and in the second case, with regard to specific schemes for particular provinces, almost every province has had its share, except Quebec, which was left out.

To convince yourselves, you should read carefully the 1962 report on these famous joint projects. I outlined the main aspects thereof in a recent speech to the house, and I then thought I had succeeded in opening the eyes of the present government, with a view to the preparation of its present estimates. To my great disappointment, nothing has yet been done, and nothing will be done this year, since the same errors appear again in the new estimates.

You have only to glance at the various items under vote No. 5 on research, amounting to \$29,344,400. What will this vote bring to the province of Quebec? Taxes. As for vote No. 35, concerning fruits and vegetables, in the amount of \$25,762,200, I am afraid the province of Quebec will not get the least advantage therefrom this year, in view of the dilatoriness of the provincial government in its projects for the construction of potato warehouses and cold storage.

Votes 55 and 60 prove what I said in my introductory remarks, namely that specific joint projects with some provinces or areas are the most fatal to us, and that nothing has changed in this respect.

Mr. Chairman, if we look at votes 55, 60 and 65, for which we are asked to allow an amount of \$42,463,600, we can read for instance in vote No. 55:

Irrigation and water storage projects—Bow river irrigation project—St. Mary's irrigation project—South Saskatchewan river project—Buffalo Pound lake reservoir—

Those are ARDA projects.