

Rural Development

Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I was interested in the remarks of the minister, in opening the discussion on second reading of this bill, with regard to what I might refer to as the non-agricultural activities under the ARDA program and some of the reasons for the introduction of the bill, with particular reference to the ruling he suggested had been provided by officers of the Department of Justice. In the light of the minister's remarks I suppose I should describe this news release dated March 25, 1966, by the Department of Forestry as one of his illegal press releases. I should like to refer to it. The release states:

Expansion of the ARDA sponsored fisheries development program in the Port au Port Peninsula area of Newfoundland has been announced jointly by federal forestry minister Maurice Sauvé and Premier Smallwood in his capacity as provincial economic development minister.

On a federal-provincial cost-sharing basis, approval has been given to an ARDA expenditure of \$60,000 for the provision of three 37-foot multi-purpose, heavy powered wooden boats to be used to demonstrate improved fishing techniques.

Then it goes on to describe this project in somewhat greater detail. I believe this is probably the latest of a number of such projects which have been undertaken particularly in the province of Newfoundland as I recall various bulletins that have been issued under the authority of the minister. My particular interest in this question—and I would like the minister when he replies to give the house some explanation on this point—is the relationship between this type of activity under the ARDA program and the activity that is proposed under Bill No. C-145 which is now before the house for consideration. Clause 3 of Bill No. C-145 has this to say:

The Minister—

That is referring to the Minister of Fisheries.

—may undertake projects,

(a) for the more efficient exploitation of fishery resources and for the exploration for and development of new fishery resources and new fisheries;

(b) for the introduction and demonstration to fishermen of new types of fishing vessels and fishing equipment and of new fishing techniques; and

(c) for the development of new fishery products and for the improvement of the handling, processing and distribution of fishery products.

Then in clause 5 of Bill No. C-145 it is proposed that the minister shall be authorized to enter into agreements with the provinces and other agencies for the construction and equipment of fishing vessels. To me at least this raises a question whether there is to be a duplication of activities between the Minister

[Mr. Baldwin.]

of Forestry under the ARDA program and the Minister of Fisheries under the proposed act for the development of the commercial fisheries of Canada.

I am wondering whether in this particular field there may have developed an area of competition between these two departments and whether we may have something of a jurisdictional battle that will determine if there will later be a transfer of duties in which the Department of Fisheries will be amalgamated under the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development. In this connection I would mention that the fishermen's union in British Columbia in its recent convention passed, I believe, a resolution suggesting that we should have an eastern Minister of Fisheries and a western Minister of Fisheries. I am not at all sure that the present Minister of Forestry could qualify in their minds for the position of western Minister of Fisheries. Nevertheless, in the light of certain other discussions in the field of agriculture with regard to dividing jurisdiction I am wondering whether this may be the direction in which we are headed.

Apart from that matter, Mr. Speaker, I think we should have clarification on whether, assuming parliament approves a new commercial fisheries development act, the Minister of Forestry anticipates turning over this sort of project to the Department of Fisheries; and if not, what means or methods will be followed to determine what type of activity will be under his jurisdiction and what type of activity will come within the jurisdiction of the Minister of Fisheries?

I may say that apart from the general interest in this matter that arises out of the situation in Newfoundland—and I certainly have not quarrelled in my own mind with the fact that the ARDA program was engaging in this area of activity in Newfoundland, with its limited agricultural areas—I have been rather puzzled as to the authority under which ARDA, as I understand it—and my understanding has not been too detailed or extensive—enters into agreements of this type, which have no reference whatever to agricultural activity.

I also feel and have felt for some time that there may be real possibilities of combined land use development, perhaps in certain areas of my own constituency, where the combination of an ARDA-type program for land development, with participation by the Department of Fisheries in the improvement of salmon spawning, might be developed. If the minister can give us some indication how