

*Rural Development*

● (4:50 p.m.)

[Translation]

game sanctuaries. Our local conservation authorities are to be commended for the remarkable contribution they have made already toward restoring our natural resources. ARDA provides legislation that will extend the help and direction the authorities have hoped for and of which they will not hesitate to take advantage.

This government, Mr. Speaker, should give some thought to introducing legislation in respect of the future settlement of all new areas in our country so that many of the obstacles we are now legislating to correct would be avoided. Surrounded by a wealth of natural resources that seem inexhaustible, the pioneer in any area naturally shows more energy in using what is at hand to keep himself fed, warm, clothed and in business, than foresight in preserving any of it. I believe all the land we have that is suitable should be kept for the production of food and especially wheat. This is a commodity that can be stored for lengthy periods. It is used for food the world over. It is not difficult to handle or transport. It could be our most potent weapon for maintaining peace. It could save millions of lives. It could save our own if great catastrophe overtook us. Our great western plains are reputed to be the bread basket of the world and, as such, they should continue. More of our wheat should go to those now starving. This will not hurt our market because these people are not in a position to buy. However, such humanitarian treatment could win them over politically now and for mutual economic advantage later. I believe there is much truth in a statement once made by the late President Kennedy when he said: "If a free society cannot help the many who are poor, it can never save the few who are rich."

Perhaps too I should bring to the attention of the house a quotation from Scripture which applies at this time and which comes to us through the prophet Isaiah.

And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I trust that the minister will review the suggestions and directions which have been brought to his attention by several members. I am sure they will be of assistance to him in bringing into fruition the visions we have for this great nation.

**Mr. Auguste Choquette (Lotbinière):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to say a few words first to congratulate the government and the minister on the very commendable action they took by introducing this beneficial piece of legislation.

Indeed, since he took up his duties, the present Minister of Forestry (Mr. Sauvé) has shown quite remarkable initiative and energy, in addition to his determination in dealing earnestly with the true problem which affects the farm people.

The resolution now under discussion undoubtedly reflects his intentions and his fruitful action.

As a matter of fact, the bill under study comes under a very specific program of which three definite objects are now being materialized. The thing is, first, to promote the welfare of underdeveloped areas; second, to speed up industrialization of rural areas; and, third, to check underemployment and promote employment in agricultural areas.

During my brief remarks, I should like to express the hope that when implemented, this piece of legislation, will tend to eliminate the pockets of poverty which sometimes occur within prosperous areas.

I do not wish to make unfavourable comments about the pilot area set up and established in Mont-Joli. But the following procedure has often been followed in the past. A so-called underdeveloped area was looked after while small communities where people lived in dire poverty and destitution were being overlooked in areas alleged to be rich and prosperous.

I am thinking, for instance, of the riding of Lotbinière which is essentially rural and which I have the honour to represent. In certain parts, there are farms which are not only economic, but exceptionally prosperous and where the land is very fertile. But close by are communities and small villages, called settlements, which are deprived of the minimum well-being all people should enjoy.

As a result, here is the wish I should like to formulate during consideration of this bill: That we cope not only with these areas but also with the small localities scattered among the prosperous areas, localities to which absolutely no attention is paid because they are thought to be prosperous, considering they are situated within general prosperous areas.