

Projects to assist in the establishment and maintenance of farm woodlots, including assistance in planting, thinnings, access trails to woodlots, management, planning and other woodlot extension services.

Projects to acquire marginal lands for growing recreational needs as a result of urbanization, and particularly for recreational needs for land near urban centres. Recently I have had some brief discussions with officials of the American Rural Area Development Program, and the alternative use of lands for recreational purposes is one of the major factors in their program. They are proposing to transfer many millions of acres of land to recreational needs because of the burgeoning demand for recreational lands in the U.S.A. We think there is also a great demand for recreational lands in certain areas in Canada.

Senator BUCHANAN: What type of development should they evolve for recreational purposes?

Mr. DAVIDSON: Some of these are simply set aside as, you might almost say, wild land, but others are concerned with the development of natural or artificial lakes and beaches.

Senator BUCHANAN: To produce wild game, and hunting areas?

Mr. DAVIDSON: In the U.S.A. program and, presumably, in ours, these areas would be open for public hunting. That is the next class I was going to suggest.

Projects to acquire marginal lands for public shooting areas, wild life management areas, or to lease or acquire easements on such lands from farm owners for public use.

Under this kind of program comes the proposed Prairie pothole lease or easement program, and a couple of provinces in the east have suggested programs for acquiring public shooting grounds.

This is an attempt to suggest the kind of projects that have come from the provinces under the Projects for the Alternative Uses of Land portion of the act. With respect to the Soil and Water Conservation Projects portion of the act, and the intensive use of arable farm land, we received a great number of different types of proposals, such as proposals for projects for the drainage of good arable farm land; projects for the protection of such lands from flooding, including dykes, main ditching systems, stream improvement, flood control dams, and so on; projects for the supply of water for agricultural purposes, including water storage, dams and dugouts; projects for shelter belts and other such soil erosion control measures; projects for stone removal on good arable land, and for grassing and terracing to prevent erosion; projects to maintain water levels for stability of agricultural production and related flood control, wild life and recreational purposes; engineering or cost-benefit or other related studies on any projects of this kind.

You can see that the proposals that have come from the provinces under the Soil and Water Conservation Projects portion run practically the whole gamut of possibilities of soil and water conservation. There is a great number of them. Some of them might also be rather costly.

The other main section of the act is that dealing with rural development, and I think you gentlemen are familiar with the concept of the rural development section since you have had a great deal of testimony before this committee on rural development. In fact, I think you took an active part in recommending proposals that had to do with this section.

The idea, of course, is to establish what I might call rural development areas, and in those areas to attack all of the possibilities of local area development with the aim of increasing the income opportunities in those areas.