

ment decides to do things, makes promises and sets up a bureaucracy, but the results of that bureaucracy and those promises fall far short of what was originally intended. They feel that the bureaucracy which has been established to do certain things does not benefit them but only the members of the bureaucracy who hold jobs. They feel that the bureaucracy is not sufficiently sensitive to the needs of the people, that administrative procedures, decisions, interpretations of regulations and even acts of parliament are designed not to assist the people who have selected Members of Parliament to vote these laws into effect but to assist only those people who are administering them.

It is my feeling, Mr. Speaker, that there have to be new ways of solving the problems other than the traditional ones of identifying the problem, identifying a solution and then creating the bureaucracy to solve it. That mode of action is no longer successful. I am encouraged by experiments such as the opportunities for youth and local initiatives programs which have given people an opportunity to use their own ideas and to work on solutions to their own problems.

Because of this distrust, if you will, of the governmental process, it strikes me that we must be prepared to consider another proposition. In the early 1960s there was considerable debate in the House of Commons, in the provinces and in the country at large about the possibility of appointing an ombudsman for Canada. I know the idea was canvassed in the House and the former member for Red Deer presented a bill to the House of Commons. I am in the process of preparing a bill for consideration of the House about the creation of the office of ombudsman.

Because of the situation in which we now find ourselves with a minority parliament, the government will not have the energies to cope with the growing power of the bureaucracy; it means that the energies of the government will be concentrated in the House of Commons; it means that we as Members of Parliament will not have the energy to try to cope with the growth of bureaucracy; it means that we must find some other agency to deal with this growing problem. Therefore it seems to me that the creation of the office of ombudsman would be beneficial not only in terms of dissipating the uneasiness of so many of our constituents over the development and exercise of bureaucratic power, but that it would be beneficial for the bureaucracy itself to know that there was a means by which people who felt they were being discriminated against by that bureaucracy could have an adequate hearing of their grievances. It seems to me that this role can no longer be played to the fullest extent by the Member of Parliament if government continues penetration into a variety of areas of Canadian society.

In the Speech from the Throne I was delighted to see concentration on the needs of western Canada. As a member from Ontario whose constituency is significantly affected by developments in the west, I feel there is a caveat I must enter on behalf of my constituents. That caveat is that if and when the meeting with the four western provinces is held to consider their economic intentions, there must be provision for representation from northwestern Ontario. Our area is affected directly by what goes on in the west and is dependent on decisions

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taken in the west. I am referring to federal government decisions in response to the desires of the west. While it may be convenient for the federal government to divide the country and to operate on the basis of provincial consultations, it is also important for the federal government to deal adequately with the northwestern Ontario region that abuts on the western region, and to provide us with representation to permit us to make our own case at conferences involving the government of Canada and the West. We in northern Ontario have a separate personality, if you will, and we need representation to speak for northwestern Ontario. We do not merely need representation from the province of Ontario which we feel has never been able to speak adequately for us at Queen's Park, let alone at federal-provincial conferences.

• (1210)

I was also pleased to see the reference to the Department of Regional Economic Expansion in the speech and the promise that there would be more decentralization and closer co-operation with provinces. I wish to make only one comment concerning regional economic expansion. I say to hon. members who come from Toronto and from what we in the north call the golden horseshoe that if there is any sense in the existence of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion in Canada it means that growth must be limited in those particular areas and diverted to the fringe areas of Canada. Perhaps a certain amount of growth will need to be taken away from the golden horseshoe area. It will not do for Members of Parliament on this or the other side of the House to speak piously of the aims of regional economic expansion without being prepared to make the necessary sacrifices to limit their own growth and to take active steps to divert growth, that is, existing industries, to areas in need.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Reid: If that basic principle is not accepted by the House the Department of Regional Economic Expansion might as well be eliminated, because it will not have any long-term effect. It will not bring any significant long-term benefit to those fringe areas of Canada that want to grow but have been unable to grow because of the way in which policy until now has been designed in Canada. It has been designed to protect and develop secondary industry in central Canada, which I interpret as being Ontario and Quebec.

I now return to a serious problem existing in my constituency at present. The provincial and federal governments have determined that one of the growth industries in northwestern Ontario that must be developed is the tourist industry. Camp owners have been urged to winterize their operations and to try to keep open, where possible, for 12 months instead of concentrating on the two summer months as some do. Some have accepted this challenge. The province, in addition, has been stepping up its advertising campaign. The federal government has been co-operating through the Canadian travel bureau in attracting more tourists to the area.

In the area I represent a considerable cloud overhangs the development of the tourist industry, that cloud being mercury pollution. That pollution has hampered, hurt and