

does not consider us as a priority area for assistance. I could enlarge upon that but there is no point in naming other ridings now. Similarly, I have had to tell many older employees, laid off due to technological change, that even though their entire plant has closed they are not eligible for benefits under the Industry and Labour Adjustment Program. They are not eligible because Victoria-Haliburton is not a designated area.

This area was settled as a rural agriculture and logging area. From the beginning, immigrants from many lands have seen it as an area of vast resources and challenges. It quickly became a mirror of rural Canada. Considerable foresight on behalf of our residents resulted in the creation of industries subsidiary to the agriculture and forest industries. They realized that diversification was necessary to maintain a stable economy. Now Lindsay, the largest community in the area, boasts many small businesses and the very fine campus of Sir Sandford Fleming College. Our students may remain in the area to complete their education. I am very proud of the progress we have made, yet we have retained the caring nature in the community which is characteristic of most of Canada's mixed rural and urban constituencies. This is why I have been so disappointed in the responses I have been given in the past by DREE officials.

The community wants to be productive and vital. Our students do not wish to be forced to find work outside the community because there is no incentive to local businesses to hire them. Businessmen want to continue to compete with their peers in other constituencies.

One good example is a local firm which bid on a contract to manufacture fish traps. It made a bid on a Government contract. The Department of Supply and Services chose another applicant it said had considerably underbid the local firm. That is fair ball if everything else is equal. However, deeper investigation showed that the firm that won the contract is in a constituency which is designated under DREE. In fact, the firm had originally been set up with the assistance of the Government and its transportation costs continue to be subsidized. The local firm would have had to absorb all transportation costs to compete. Thus, it lost the contract because it did not have the same availability of Government subsidization.

I hope the new Minister of Industrial and Regional Development will eliminate this kind of discrimination. I have been very pleased with the way he has conducted things so far.

The Bill will give most people an opportunity to apply for assistance at one level or another under this program. As I said in committee yesterday, I have seen more constructive policy come from this Minister than any other in my experience, regardless of which Government was represented.

I think one of the new Ministers in charge of this program has shown great promise for constituencies such as mine. When I drive home through another constituency that probably has a rate of unemployment no higher, or perhaps as high as my constituency, and see beautiful buildings going up while my people are denied the same thing I am somewhat irritated. With the reorganization of the Department and the tier

system, I hope that constituencies such as mine will have greater opportunities. I look for great things from the Minister in charge of the Department.

The Government agreed to consider each of these objectives in a separate Bill. Bill C-152 was drawn up to deal with the reorganization of the Departments of Regional and Economic Expansion, Industry, Trade and Commerce and External Affairs and Parliamentary Secretaries. The Government then proceeded to implement the changes in Department structure. It did this despite the fact that it did not bring the Bill back for second reading until May 27, 1983. It proceeded without legislative authority, and without consultation with the Provinces; it simply ignored these two key elements of the process.

The announcement in this House on Monday by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce that most of my constituency, as well as others, would benefit from the highest enrichment levels of anywhere in Ontario was encouraging. I have always respected this Minister for his honesty and dedication, and I was not surprised to note yesterday that indeed three of the five census divisions in my constituency will be at tier three level. Naturally, I would prefer to have all regions above Tier 1 level. I do understand however from the committee meetings yesterday that even Tier 1 areas will be available for the ILAP program which may be of some additional benefit.

• (1830)

Initially, I had some skepticism about the development index. I had prepared a speech in which I dealt with the possible inequities that could be created by using the census data. In the past, programs based on such statistics have ignored the chronically unemployed, those who stopped looking for work, and students who did not try to find work because they knew none was available. This year's Summer Canada Program was a prime example. In Victoria-Haliburton, only \$4,000 was added to last summer's allocation due to the use of the student surplus rate. Upon the publication of yesterday's list of allocations, I am prepared to forgo these objections. At first glance it does appear that the index may be fair and equitable, as the Minister stated on Monday.

It still concerns me a little that all the Tier 4 areas are in Quebec and the Maritimes, but perhaps it is asking a lot to pick out specific trouble spots in the other Provinces and exclude the rest. I believe the Minister has made every effort to make these allocations equitable.

Let me tell you a little bit more about the constituency of Victoria-Haliburton. Those who have never been there do not know what they are missing. Tourists flock to our lakes and campgrounds in the summer and winter. It is known in Toronto as "cottage country", a haven for tourists and city dwellers alike. That is why I get so perturbed when the Government promotes policies which discourage the tourist trade. The national energy plan was a disaster to the industry and the Government's failure to prevent price gouging by oil companies is further hurting tourism.