

and train such labour, and a great proportion of those workers are now leaving the country because we lack the necessary industries and techniques to use them.

● (3:40 p.m.)

I want to say to the minister and to the house that the purpose of the industry is not only to create labour but to produce in order to meet the needs of the country and the community. That is the purpose of industry and automation will increase its output. We shall use technology as much as possible according to whatever financial resources the government will put at our disposal.

As it stands now, a large number of small or medium-sized industries do not manage to find the capital required to enlarge and renovate their plants so as to make them more profitable. Through modernization and technology, they will certainly yield more profits and will be in a position to expand and to produce more. The government will have to intervene in order to facilitate the sale of the increased production from modernized industry. At the present time many companies have lagged behind and therefore are more or less economic operations.

Modernization of industry will not help the sale of our products.

I was saying a while ago that the industry is not meant to provide jobs but to produce. Industry is so automated today that soon we shall be unable to find work for everybody. Then, industry will not pay sufficiently high wages to the citizens and there will not be enough money into circulation to allow them to live from industry.

We will need other bodies, other means to correct the situation, but that is not the minister's responsibility. At the present time, he offers concrete measures that will be useful to the population, that will help improve designated areas that are practically undeveloped but that can become industrialized and keep part of their labour force at home.

This legislation will allow some areas to develop. In this way, the economy of those regions will acquire some balance.

We loyally support this measure. In our view, it is a very good piece of legislation, an exceptional one even. We have been hoping for something like this for a long time. The minister is presenting it today.

We must congratulate him on his bill and on the measures he has suggested to increase our industrial heritage.

Regional Development Incentives Act

This will bring only a partial solution to the problem, because the problem is an economic one and not a political nor an industrial one.

At the present time, industry is not meeting all the needs nor is it fulfilling all its duties. That is why we can say that we have surpluses of certain products.

If we want industry to run well, these surplus products must be sold, either as exports or through adequate purchasing power. Once again I know that these industrial improvements will not put at the disposal of the taxpayers the purchasing power required to make the industry run properly.

Once it is modernized, once it has adopted all the technology, once it starts producing at full capacity, industry will have to sell its products. The government will then be faced with another problem. Another department will probably manage to solve the problem, but the minister will still have something to say when he sees that a surplus of products exists and that it must be sold. He will then say: If you want me to make a go of it, you have to give adequate purchasing power to taxpayers, so that the merchandise will move. Thus, another problem will be sown, and we shall reap it later.

We will settle for the time being, for a few months and maybe for a few years, a "stationary" problem, but it will not, be solved at 100 per cent by those most efficient means. We need those means. We need to apply all the technology and to use all the science that we have at our disposal. We must provide our industries with all the means they need to keep on expanding and to yielding top profits to the people.

With regard to what they cannot give, once again, further internal means, additional measures will be needed in order to solve the various problems which will have to be settled in addition to that one. It is one of the main problems to be solved and, once again, the minister is to be commended for taking such action.

I think that the bill is well timed. A few minor amendments might have to be made, but the minister has taken into account the geography and the economy of the province of Quebec and of every Canadian province, in order that those improvements benefit the regions that need them.

The designated areas will be able to benefit from them and the minister should be commended for that. Then, Mr. Speaker, I think