

*Speech from the Throne*

The constituency of Lanark-Renfrew-Carleton stretches from the edge of Ottawa to almost the edge of Pembroke and goes south as far as the town of Perth. It has 18 townships in three counties and eight towns plus many villages. It includes such differing communities as the historic French speaking community of Lapasse, with all its pride and its history, and it also has towns like Lanark and Carleton Place where British immigrants put down their roots many decades ago. It has the impressive and spacious new homes of spanning new developments near Carp and the uniquely planned town of Kanata in March Township. I have therefore constituents whose work takes them frequently to all parts of this world and whose incomes are well over the \$10,000 a year mark. At the same time I represent some of those Canadians who are very poor. Unfortunately, in the entire Ottawa valley we have many more whose incomes are low than we have whose living standard is high.

I recognize the arguments for ecological care. I, along with other members of the House, was very proud to share in the parliament which created a full Department of the Environment, that brought in and passed the Canada Water Act, the Canada Clean Air Act, the arctic pollution control legislation, and so on. I know of the dangers of industrial growth, but at the same time I know the bitterness of poverty and the deadening, explosive results of human dreams and hopes that are chronically deferred, perpetually postponed. It is for this reason that the hon. member for Renfrew North (Mr. Hopkins) and myself were such avid supporters of the idea of a Department of Regional Economic Expansion in Canada when the bill was introduced soon after the 1968 election. It was a cause for real hope that an entire department of the government would be created, the sole purpose of which would be to generate growth in the more depressed or slow growth areas of Canada. As hon. members know, almost exactly two years ago the county of Renfrew was declared a special area under this act, an action for which I want to give the highest praise to the teamwork shared with me by my more senior colleague in the House the hon. member for Renfrew North.

In the eight townships of Renfrew county that I represent, and especially in the large town of Renfrew, this special designation has had a very positive impact. For Arnprior, Waba and Cobden, and throughout the entire area which falls within my constituency, some \$2.5 million has been approved resulting in more than 600 possible jobs. I say possible jobs because all of the plans are not yet implemented and all of the jobs have not yet therefore been created. We needed this federal assistance because in the Ottawa valley, especially in the area that I represent, we had become, industrially speaking, too dependent on the over-tooled and over-equipped aircraft industry. For example, in my own constituency there is the one major magnesium mine in Canada formerly known as Dominion Magnesium Limited, now known as Chromasco at Haley Station. This mine, because of the situation in the aircraft industry and related problems, has cut down from 16 furnaces to eight, with the resulting lay-off of significant numbers of workers. Near the same location there is the last foundry of its type in our nation, the Haley Industries Ltd. which does very specialized light

[Mr. McBride.]

alloy castings. This plant is also under significant pressure.

Within the town of Renfrew we had the very large Renfrew Engineering and Aircraft Company which was closed one year ago. This came about as the result of the pressure on the aircraft industry and especially the lack of work that United Aircraft Corporation of Montreal had and therefore the drop of orders in Renfrew. At the moment in Arnprior we have the Vertol-Boeing plant which is under similar pressures.

I recount all of this to point out simply that the designation of Renfrew county as a special area was not something that was done for no reason or through some whim but for very substantial reasons indeed because without this designation we would have been in a very bleak situation. In spite of the rather remarkable results that have come about as a result of Renfrew county being designated, it is my conviction that because of the significant pressures on the aircraft industry we are really not that much further ahead than we were before, and the designation which terminates on June 30, 1972 simply must be reinstated and must be prolonged. It is to achieve this end that the hon. member for Renfrew North and myself are now working very hard.

Growth in the county of Lanark has been steady. There the industrial base is more diversified and therefore the job opportunities far more substantial and far more secure than has been the case in Renfrew. Carleton County, of course, the third county of which I have the privilege to represent a portion, has some of the best farm land in Canada. This area, being closer to Ottawa and therefore to the national capital, has significant development coming its way, such as the recently announced large expansion to the Carp airport. These developments accrue to it automatically, but such is not now nor has it been the case for Renfrew County. I think I am in the rather awkward position, as a Member of Parliament with responsibilities for the three counties in my constituency, of always being vulnerable, as is any elected representative, to the charge of playing favourites. The fact remains however, that Renfrew County needed to be designated to a more significant degree than the other two because it had suffered far more loss of income through its very peculiar situation of being so heavily tied into the aircraft industry. So this special federal aid, more aid than has ever before been given to the County of Renfrew, must be continued and that is something that is of prime importance.

• (1500)

Now, Mr. Speaker, in case some critic, and in public life we get many critics, should rush to condemn me because I have not yet mentioned agriculture, I want to spend a few moments referring to the agriculture industry. The people in my constituency who produce manufacturing or industrial milk have been significantly assisted by the real improvement in milk prices, especially the improvement that occurred when our surpluses were reduced in Canada and we did not have to keep so much of the holdback from going into the pockets of the farmers.

Beef prices have been good and beef farmers have been doing relatively well, although higher prices for replacement cattle are beginning to squeeze the profit margin