

Rural Development

working methods. In each province, there is and there can be a joint provincial committee to set up the program for the coming years, as explained on page 10 of the document I mentioned a little earlier. I quote:

It will be possible to set up joint advisory committees made up of five high officials of which three, including the chairman, will be appointed by the provincial minister and two by the federal minister.

Thus co-operation is being established at the beginning of the fiscal year before the programs for the whole year are elaborated at the provincial level.

In addition, we have organized and we are still organizing special meetings that enable us to take the initiative I referred to during the debate on the departmental estimates and also make the provinces aware of the importance of certain innovations in rural areas.

I shall not give you the list of all the meetings that took place recently. But let me tell you only that in the month of January we had—and I think I have the report with me—a meeting on land development and consolidation, so the provinces might benefit from part two of the agreement I mentioned earlier.

In co-operation with the provinces, we have designated rural development areas under part five of the new agreement.

● (7:40 p.m.)

[English]

Programs of resource development in low-income areas are provided for in this part of the agreement. The primary objective is to increase income and employment opportunities in rural areas where one half or more of rural families had an estimated income of less than \$3,000 in 1961.

The areas have been jointly recognized by provinces in Canada as development areas and are as follows.

There then follows the Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Ontario, the prairie provinces and so on.

[Translation]

But, to me, in spite of everything, the most interesting among the innovations I referred to earlier is surely the establishment of special rural development areas. That concept is fully explained at pages 21-22 of the federal-provincial rural development agreement.

Until now, there was an agreement between the government of Canada and the provinces for the designation of such rural regions: Interlake, in Manitoba; the lower St. Lawrence valley and Gaspé, in Quebec; northern New Brunswick, Gloucester and Restigouche, in New Brunswick, and also the

[Mr. Sauv .]

Mactaquac region; Cape Breton and the northern area, in Nova Scotia; finally, the whole of Prince Edward Island.

This new concept is related to the second bill listed under the department for the setting up of an economic development fund. It allows the federal government to move in massively in those areas in Canada where there is unemployment and economic stagnation. We believe that in this way, the federal, in co-operation with the provinces, will contribute efficiently toward the solution of chronic problems in certain parts of the country.

I trust that, within the next few days, if not within the next few weeks, I shall have the pleasure, of informing the house that two agreements have been signed with the New Brunswick government, one dealing with the northern part of the province, and the other, with Mactaquac.

Hon. members will be pleased to see that, thanks to co-operation between the federal government and the government of New Brunswick, we are fighting off poverty efficiently in rural areas. Speaking of the war against poverty, there, Mr. Speaker, are concrete examples of what can be done when the federal and provincial governments co-operate.

I should have liked, this evening, had the agreement been signed, to give an overall view of the project to hon. members. However, I must limit myself to mentioning it only, but I am sure that within the next few weeks the house will be pleased to become acquainted with it.

Not only did we innovate in the general sense advocated by the member for Qu'Appelle (Mr. Hamilton) when he was minister in charge of that act, but we went even a bit further and set up what had been intended in the original act and which is the subject of an amendment in Bill C-152, namely a Canadian Rural Development Council.

The Council is composed of representatives of rural associations concerned with the problems which come under ARDA and of persons whose experience can be useful in the development of ARDA programs and projects.

When the Minister of Fisheries introduced the proposed resolution, I think there was some confusion in the minds of some hon. members. In Bill C-152, to amend the ARDA act, reference is made to that National Rural Development Council whose membership I outlined previously, although the ARDA agreements provide for committees at both