

Rural Development

a tourist industry could be established. Is this provided for by the program, for example, in a region such as mine? If the province suggests to the minister or to the federal government an agricultural area with a considerable mineral potential where iron mines could be operated, will this law provide for help under those circumstances?

Mr. Sauv : Yes, Mr. Chairman, that would be quite possible if the area has been designated as the bill requires and if the concerns to be developed are to income and employment and raise the standard of living in the area.

Indeed, in some regions, such as in the Lower St. Lawrence area and in Gasp , if the provincial government follows the recommendations of the eastern Quebec development board, a program will comprise several projects concerning the tourist trade, agriculture, small businesses, forests, fisheries and probably mines. It is a comprehensive area development program. It can also cover fields such as housing and education.

[English]

Mr. Barnett: Mr. Chairman, I was pleased to hear the reply to the hon. member for Kootenay West because it indicated that the minister is prepared to give sympathetic consideration to the problems referred to by that hon. member. I should like to say a few words in support of the arguments advanced by him.

Undoubtedly the Minister of Forestry is aware, in a general way at least, that the development of the history of the Columbia river project for damming the Arrow lakes is the direct cause of the problems outlined by the hon. member for Kootenay West. I realize of course that the minister was not a member of the house during that period of history, and that the early stages of the treaty date back to the time of his predecessor.

Because of the participation of the federal authority in the agreement, and because of the international implications of the agreement, there is in my view directly or indirectly a moral if not a legal obligation on the part of the federal authority to give some consideration to the results of the implementation of this Columbia river treaty.

Coming from the province of British Columbia, and having had discussions with the hon. member for Kootenay West, I have some general knowledge of the approach adopted by the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority in this connection. In my view that attitude is a

rather striking contrast to the position taken by the federal authority in relation to the people who were being displaced as a result of the St. Lawrence seaway development. Compensation in that regard was considered only adequate when it provided for the cost of relocation of whole communities.

For the reasons I have advanced I think there is real justification for the federal authority's being more than willing to enter into an agreement with provincial authorities under this act. I should add that I have heard the premier of the province of British Columbia complain rather vociferously that the federal government is always trying to draw funds from the province of British Columbia. I have made no bones about my own views in this regard. Some of the complaints he has voiced are unrealistic and unreasonable and completely inconsistent with any concept of a united Canada.

• (7:30 p.m.)

However, I think in this situation there is an opportunity under this bill for the province to look at the possibility of utilizing a proposal being developed by the government and parliament of Canada to do something which apparently through its agency, the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority, it has not been willing to do to the present at least.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Mr. Chairman, I wish to raise a matter under clause 5 that I think is of importance to the whole nation. I am surprised that there is no restraining clause in the bill, or no clause governing the amount that may be spent in each province. There should be a clause governing the per capita amount that may be spent in the provinces and territories, because we have two territories as well. I ask the minister this question: Does he not wish to have any safeguards limiting the amount that any province can absorb of the \$50 million we are voting under this legislation? I would warn the minister that benefits could act discriminatorily, unfairly and in a one-sided manner and we should guard against this happening.

I am thinking of last year's farm machinery syndicates bill, as a result of which the residents of one western province obtained the lion's share of the money lent. We do not want a repetition of this situation as a result of this bill. We want ARDA to go into action across the whole of Canada in a fair and equitable way. We want all the provinces and territories to benefit, and not a few or just one province. There should be control in