

there are strong regional concentrations of rural poverty. Northern Ontario possesses regions that are facing different problems. Any over-all policy for developing the area must take adequate account of this diversity, and selective programs must be adapted to the particular needs and prospects of the varied subregions.

One of the important things we must consider about northern Ontario is the fact that there are significant natural resources. Near Moosonee we have deposits of lignite unequalled, we have deposits of columbium which are being developed, and we have the possibility of oil wells throughout the whole of that area. Of course the rich forest industry is concentrated in northern Ontario and that is our principal industry.

The big problem we have to overcome in northern Ontario is first of all that of transportation and accessibility. Everything we mention seems to come back to the old problem of transportation. There are not enough roads and the service offered by the railroads is inadequate. The question of freight rates is uppermost. If we want to induce industry to come into the north, we have to make sure they can send their products out to market at a reasonable rate. If we want to encourage local farmers to raise beef cattle, we have to assure them that they can send their animals to the slaughterhouse at a reasonable rate. If we want to encourage people to grow vegetables, we must be able to tell them that their products can be sent to market at a reasonable rate. But the present situation in respect of freight rates is such that none of these things can be done advantageously.

• (4:00 p.m.)

We have, as I have said, a very important industry in northern Ontario, that of forestry. Various people in this area have opened factories to make plywood and other by-products of the forest industry. They are constantly running into difficulties and cannot compete with other Canadians on the market because they have to pay such high rates to ship their products on the railroad. Is this the way to develop the north? It is not. This is why I am so confident that our government will take a close look at all these problems. It is going to consider regional development for northern Ontario from every aspect and come up with answers that will make it possible for our people to live in a reasonable fashion.

#### *The Address—Mr. Ralph Stewart*

When we come to plans such as ARDA, the Prime Minister knows, because he and I went over the figures together, that not one cent went to developing anything in my riding. Of course the people have to request these things, but they do need some guidance. I know that some money was spent in the region to research a new type of blueberry. That certainly did not help the local people very much. When we asked why more had not been done, the bureaucrats gave us the answer that "Ontario does not have easily definable regions of concentrated rural poverty." That is a typical, bureaucratic answer and it is the kind of answer that will not do. I hope that the minister who has taken over the new department of regional development will not listen to that kind of reasoning, but will go ahead and develop our northern area.

The recent approaches to the problem, as described by those who have made a study of regional disparity, have stressed the over-all dynamic aspects of regional development in relation to the national economy as a whole. In this way Canada will accept sacrifices not only for the future benefit of less developed regions but for the future gain of the entire country. Moreover, sources of potential development will be sought all across Canada and not just in such traditional areas as the maritimes. In that search there will be put forward no misleading averages for provinces in order to hide the real truth about depressed areas.

Also, there is a consensus among the scholars that it is very much in the interest of society at large for a high standard of social services to be maintained in all rural areas, even those where sparse population makes these services more expensive than elsewhere. This is particularly important with respect to education.

If you will permit me, Mr. Speaker, I would like to mention here the cultural situation in the riding of Cochrane. I would like to see, in the whole development of the northern area, some consideration given to culture. Why should our young people be deprived of that which others in the south are receiving? There is no such thing as a cultural centre in my riding. I am trying right now to get the government to take over a building—which, by the way, they could get for practically nothing—in the town of Kapuskasing. Part of this building could be used as a cultural centre, and I suggest that the other part could be used as a forestry training school. This would benefit the area and would be good for the future of the young people.