

Mr. McILRAITH: Mr. Chairman, my point is not in regard to whether there is enough money, but if there is the authority for this department to carry out the functions for which we are providing this money.

The CHAIRMAN: Undoubtedly there must be or they would not have had it, I would think.

Mr. McILRAITH: No, no; they make many mistakes in law. They are only human.

Mr. HELLYER: Mr. Chairman, on this very point, the minister himself must have had some apprehension about it because, if you will turn to page 6 you will see that it reads this way, referring to this emergency supply planning branch:

it will thus also have responsibility for co-ordinating those aspects of emergency supply planning that are properly the responsibility of other branches of the Department of Defence Production or of other departments and agencies.

Mr. McILRAITH: Yes, "or of other departments and agencies".

Mr. HELLYER: I would like an explanation in that regard, because here they are saying we are setting up an agency to do the work which is properly the responsibility of other branches of the department, or of other agencies.

The CHAIRMAN: Can you add anything to that, Mr. Golden?

Mr. GOLDEN: Yes, sir. The minister said, "coordinating these aspects". The department is not going to do anything which is already being done in any other department, but we have been given the responsibility of co-ordinating this and doing the planning in those areas where there is now no planning. We are not going to ask for statistics which the Dominion Bureau of Statistics already has, and we are not going to ask for information in respect of industry that the Department of Trade and Commerce already has. That is what the minister meant, I think.

Mr. McILRAITH: Yes, but in such cases it is not usual to have a branch doing that sort of thing and reporting directly through the deputy minister to the minister of the particular department, that is the point I make.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions gentlemen?

Mr. WINCH: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask a question with respect to page 4 of the minister's typewritten statement. At page 4 we have the statement: "On the other hand, heavy gun production in this country has virtually ceased".

The CHAIRMAN: Where is that statement on the page?

Mr. WINCH: It is about half way down the page.

I have not seen any startling reduction in the world in regard to defence expenditure. Why has this been necessary? Has Mr. Golden any information in this regard, and I refer to the fact that heavy gun production has virtually ceased in Canada. Has Mr. Golden any information as to whether or not the plants that were previously producing heavy guns have been adapted in any way for the production of the new type of armament which will be required, because we are still spending the same amount of money? I am interested in the employment situation and the maintaining of those plants.

Mr. GOLDEN: There is only one facility in Canada, at least in recent years, which has been used for the production of heavy guns, and with the exception of some spares, which I believe are still being produced, I do not know of any defence orders in that plant. This plant is not exclusively engaged in defence production work. It does other work. As far as defence