

employed in national production authority to avoid dislocations in important defence supporting industries, and in general we have been successful in arranging for parallel measures to be applied to the corresponding Canadian industries in respect to their United States supplies. For example, there is conflicting advice as to what steps will be taken in connection with the truck manufacturing industry in the United States. The necessary information has been obtained from the Canadian automotive industry, so that their priority interests can be protected quickly, no matter which way the situation moves in the United States.

During this unsettled period, it has been most difficult to put in final readiness the rather comprehensive administrative procedures which will be necessary, assuming that controlled materials plan comes into full operation in the United States. It would seem most inadvisable to put any method of operation before Canadian industry until such time as we can be sure that it affords at least a relatively satisfactory short-run basis of operation.

My colleague, the Minister of National Defence, has described in some detail the programme of the armed services. It is the role of the Department of Defence Production to ensure that the armed services have the equipment and supplies that they require. In the remarks which I have just made, I have indicated how the department is organized to procure these supplies. I have referred to the three main branches of the department and to their various programmes. I have touched briefly on our activities in the international field. I have mentioned some of the inducements which we are using to encourage production in Canada of articles or commodities that are needed for the defence programme. I have said previously in this House and in other public statements, that I am satisfied that we can fulfil the programme on schedule. I have admitted that we could not carry out this task without the complete co-operation of Canadian industry, but that in co-operation which we have enjoyed in the past, and I have no doubts as to the role that Canadian industry will play in the future.

There is another important element in the defence production programme, and that is manpower. We have a tight manpower situation. As civilian producers, with exceptionally heavy stocks, run into consumer resistance, they may find it necessary to cut back staff. I am satisfied, however, that such personnel will be absorbed quickly into defence or defence-supporting industries. There will be minor dislocations, but I am satisfied that there is sufficient labour of the right kind in Canada to support our defence programme as well as a flourishing civilian economy.