

*Establishment of Industry Department*

second part of the resolution which has been dealt with so effectively by the hon. member for Peace River, namely the proposal for an area development agency.

However, the present government is showing signs of too great haste and not enough thought. This is apparent in the present resolution and, I presume, in the bill which they have been busily drafting. It is apparent in other items of legislation which are on the order paper, as we will point out in due course. The great haste of the present government is beginning to show now in careless preparation.

May I point out that everybody in the country has been aware of the first class work being done by the Glassco commission. The present government has been aware of the presentation of the final volume of the Glassco commission report. However, without an intensive study of the Glassco commission findings and recommendations, the government has rushed ahead, placing items on the order paper that run contrary to the recommendations of the Glassco commission. It may be that the government has already decided it is not prepared to accept some of the recommendations of the commission. This is sometimes the fate of royal commissions. However, it seems to me that the government's rush to place legislation on the order paper before the final report was presented indicates undue haste and careless indifference to a very efficient commission which has been examining the functions of the government of Canada for some considerable time and making suggestions for improvements.

We find in the report presented to us just this week, that the Glassco commission has suggested an entirely different role for the Department of Defence Production than the one which is envisaged in this resolution. On page 108 of the report, the commission suggests that the Department of Defence Production become a department of purchasing and supply and that its responsibilities be extended to include procurement for civilian departments and agencies.

It goes on to give other details of how a department of purchasing and supply would be more effective for government purposes but, without paying any attention whatsoever to that report, the government has brought in a resolution to establish a department of industry and amalgamate with it the present functions of the Department of Defence Production.

The second serious weakness was pointed out by the hon. member for Peace River. I have always had a serious objection to the combining of conflicting interests in a resolution or a bill. If the government fails to take

[Mr. Churchill.]

the advice which we are offering constructively, and brings in a bill based on this resolution, then on second reading of that bill, when hon. members deal with the principle of the bill, we must ask what the principle is? There is no one set, definite and specific principle involved here. Apparently two things are to be discussed and questioned. One, do we have a department of industry, and second, do we have an area development agency?

In the speeches made on the resolution stage, some hon. members have dealt with the department of industry proposal. Others have dealt with the area development agency; and when we come to second reading of the bill, unless it is redrawn the house will find itself in the position of questioning what it is voting on. Are you voting for a department of industry and an area development agency? If you are in favour of one and not in favour of the other, you are committed to support both or else vote against both, and this makes for very bad legislation.

My suggestion to the government is that there is still time to make a revision, still time to split this resolution into the two parts in which it should have been presented to us originally, and there is still time to bring in a separate bill for an area development agency. As the hon. member for Peace River has pointed out, other countries have had experience along that line.

As the Prime Minister pointed out in his address, the area development agency has a distinctly different role from that of the department of industry. It is supposed to deal with those areas—and I am quoting his words as found at page 803 of *Hansard* for June 7—

—in which unemployment is heavy and chronic in its nature, where special government action is therefore called for in order to encourage economic development or industrial adjustment.

In those areas the whole question of manpower adjustment is important, and so I do not question the value of this at all. I am simply suggesting there should be a separate bill covering this agency.

When we are dealing with legislation we are dealing with what we hope will be things of some permanency, not just here this year and gone the next. An area development agency might very well receive unanimous support, but there should be a separate bill for it and it should be considered in that light. With the great haste of this government it has fallen into the error of lack of thought and lack of preparation, and I seriously object to its failure to have recourse to the recommendations of the Glassco commission before putting legislation in front of the house.