

namely, that in Ontario, out of 4,426 organizations, 98·2 per cent made no return whatsoever to their shareholders and only one per cent of starters finished at the post of economic success, it becomes obvious that the government, if it were engaged in mineral development for itself, would not continue long. But here we have a vote to make possible the finding of strategic minerals, and none of that money has been made available to the western provinces with the exception of a small amount in Manitoba. I do not want to transgress your ruling, Mr. Chairman, but I think that, as the hon. member for Vancouver South said, it is a very important matter to ascertain from the government its plan in regard to mineral development. In my opinion, all the provinces having potential mineral resources have a right of equal access to moneys being expended by the dominion government at this time—at least reasonably equal access—and that has been denied.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): What about wheat?

Mr. GRAYDON: What about fish?

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: That indicates that the Minister of Fisheries feels that wheat is a mineral resource or a strategic ore, and that does not show that he understands the problem as well as he should. I am dealing with mineral and strategic ores.

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): But we are spending the money.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: Is the Minister of Fisheries objecting to the moneys that are expended in connection with wheat and on agriculture in western Canada?

Mr. BERTRAND (Laurier): Not at all. But when somebody from the west compares what is being spent in the east with what is being spent in the west, he should take into consideration certain moneys that are not spent in the east on things like wheat.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: No one is criticizing what is expended in the east. I am pleading for a diversification of industry in all parts of Canada and not the concentration in any one part. In connection with this vote I would ask the minister how he would react to the suggestion that under the vote an opportunity be given to some of the men coming back from overseas to-day to engage as prospectors for the purpose of exploring for minerals. Many soldiers coming back to-day, used to the outdoors, willing to go prospecting, require training in that direction; and I suggest that under this vote, instead of reducing it from half a million to \$60,000, the grant should be

continued and an opportunity given, by the establishment of prospecting schools and the like, to train some of our men who are returning from overseas so as to enable them to engage in this very important work after the war. If you do this you will be doing war work, prospecting for strategic metals, and you will be training men for a vocation after the war. I believe that one of the committees in connection with post-war rehabilitation has made that suggestion and I should like to hear the minister's view in that connection. I suggest that there should be at this time, under this vote, a declaration by the minister, indicating something of the long-term policy of the government with regard to a general survey of the dominion for metals, the intensification of activity in the development and discovery of our metal resources, to the end that when the war is over, this very important source of our wealth will be available in greater measure for post-war purposes. The vote this year is considerably reduced. I know that the government of Saskatchewan has asked consideration of the department in this connection; and I cannot understand why it is that, when we have the potential resources, when, according to the surveys made by the western provinces, we have the strategic metals which the minister mentions, such as chromium, manganese, molybdenum, tin, and possibly tungsten—

Mr. HOWE: Where is the manganese located?

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: After all, if the minister knows where it is located, and there is none located in the west—

Mr. HOWE: None in Canada that I know of.

Mr. DIEFENBAKER: I am referring to returns of provincial governments. At any rate, I suggest that we have a right to ask for a share of this vote. I say, too, that there should be an extension of the grant asked for this year. The sum of \$500,000 was small enough. We should have an extension to the end that we might encourage exploratory work now and train men coming back from overseas to fit them for this very important phase of endeavour, to secure in an ever-increasing measure this potential of great wealth. The minister said that he could not very well declare the policy of the government except on his civil estimates. These estimates give him an opportunity to do so. These estimates will indicate whether or not, in the midst of war, and as a part of the war vote, the government is looking forward to the future, after the war, to secure the employment of many men who will be returning from overseas and who will require jobs. If we are to answer those who