

Supply—Industry

Instead of spending \$25 million to support the technological power of the Canadian defence industries, why could we not earmark this money to develop secondary industries, or else try to educate the officials of some companies as to the possibility and the logic of establishing secondary industries in our area, since we can supply the raw materials?

• (4:10 p.m.)

Do you not believe, Mr. Chairman, that we could also process these raw materials in our area? We could have done so with zinc; we could do it with copper and lithium and have secondary industries there. We have unlimited possibilities in our district, provided the government and the minister would look at them and see what is going on.

Some members of the house were lucky enough to visit my region and to see the operations of beautiful mines such as Val d'Or located close to Noranda. We have splendid mining industries at present, but the ore is mined and nothing is done to create secondary industries which would enable us to process the ore on the spot, in the northwestern part of Quebec. I call the attention of the minister to this point.

I have no further comments, but I want to draw the minister's attention to the following point: I am not asking him nor the government to spend millions of dollars to set up industries. I am asking that they discuss, with company officials, the possibility of creating secondary industries there. In this way, the minister will help the population and respect private enterprise by explaining that it is in its best interest to help an area develop as much as possible.

Mr. Chairman, the estimates of this department may not be very high, since they total only \$50 million.

Industry needs much more throughout the country. A few provinces, or one province only, could use up that amount. But the Minister of Industry can help without detriment to anyone by allowing copper to be processed in Noranda instead of Montreal. This seems logical to me. It could be processed in the area of Val d'Or or Malartic, which is disappearing from the Abitibi map, because gold mines have to close down. Hence it is important and urgent that the Minister of Industry should assume the responsibilities which fall on him to help the area to develop, survive and grow, in short be what it used to be in the past, of great

[Mr. Caouette.]

importance to the development of Canada and the province of Quebec.

Then, the minister will have helped not only my area but the Canadian economy as a whole. This will bring in more industries; decentralization will be achieved and we will be able to say that the Minister of Industry has played his part in maintaining our small towns, and establishing a more stable economy than that which we now have in the country.

[English]

Mr. Churchill: Mr. Chairman, the importance of the department that we are now discussing I think must be evident, in view of the number of members who have already spoken, and in view of the emphasis they have been placing on one of the functions of this department, which is to provide industrial development elsewhere than in the heavily industrialized sections of Canada.

The Minister of Industry occupies a very important position within the government. With his Departments of Industry and Defence Production, and expenditures of about \$80 million with respect to both those departments, he has an opportunity of exerting great influence on the industrial development of Canada.

We are nowadays in this country showing a proper interest in education at all levels, and in technical and vocational training. We are showing a great interest in bringing skilled immigrants into this country. We are intensely concerned with the development of our natural resources. We are equally concerned with the development of our industrial strength. It is in this field that the minister has the opportunity, with his staff in the two departments, to chart the course for Canada for the future. I think that a long-range view certainly is desirable.

I now wish to refer to the Thompson report, which had specifically to do with Air Canada, and with the overhaul and maintenance base in Winnipeg. What I will say may well overlap into things having to do with the Department of Defence Production. I think the minister will not object. He will be happier to hear one speech rather than two from this side of the house.

I trust you will bear with me, Mr. Chairman. I will link what I have to say directly with the responsibility of the minister, as I see it, and with the opportunity that lies in his hand to play a great part in directing the