

Supply—Labour

back. I think it would be advantageous if research were carried on under the Department of Labour with regard to developing secondary industries and for the purpose of supplying employers and employees with the facts as to what types of industries would be most suitable.

Some of the problems are obviously connected with this matter of diversification of industry, especially as that relates to the city of Toronto. I am concerned mainly with Ontario, and in the city of Toronto there are thousands of new factories being built every year while in northern Ontario, where unemployment is increasing—in fact there would not appear to be any end to this unemployment problem in certain industries—new industries are not being established. No information is made available to help induce some industries to come to areas where their raw materials are more readily available, where a labour force is more readily available than it is in major cities such as Toronto.

I think some consideration should be given by the department to this field. The minister will agree, I believe, that we are not interested entirely in improving the unemployment situation by means of handouts or increasing the benefits given to people who are unemployed, but we are primarily interested in seeing that these people are employed. If the research department is going to do the job which I think it should be doing, working toward creating opportunities for workers to obtain employment, whether it be in new industries or in revamped industries, then the research department should be working along the lines I have suggested. I do not believe this has been the case up to date. I believe the research department has produced the figures it has been asked to produce. I am not suggesting that these figures have been requested by the Minister of Labour. What I am suggesting is that there has been a direction given to this department to produce certain sets of figures, and those are being produced.

I suggest, however, that this should not be the function of the research department. The dominion bureau of statistics should be capable of producing these figures. Perhaps there should be a transfer of this work from one department to the other. It may be argued, and perhaps the Minister of Labour could indicate, that if his department took over the functions of the dominion bureau of statistics they could do a much better job. I do not believe there is room for both departments in this field. These figures should be factual. We should be able to get them from one department. We should not be asked to compare two sets of figures which have a discrepancy of almost 50 per cent.

I should like to see more down to earth research undertaken, that is research that is going to provide jobs for people and which would provide us with information that is not now available. I should like to suggest the type of information that I feel should be available. In northern Ontario we have many natural resources, and many other advantages for increased industrial development and employment opportunities. We do not have the type of information available that is available in other countries. In Norway, in Russia and many of the Scandinavian countries, they have a similar climate, similar mineral and timber wealth to that which we have. They have had experience in industrial development in these areas which are similar to parts of our country in which we have no industry at all except the so-called primary industries. These facts should be available and could be available. I should like to suggest that the minister's department give some consideration to undertaking this type of research and having these figures made available to the Canadian people.

Mr. Pickersgill: Mr. Chairman, the hon. member's rather lengthy intervention has prompted a very brief one from me. We were told by the Minister of Finance, late in June, 1957, that he was going to eliminate waste and extravagance from all the departments of government. It is some time since we have heard much talk about that. Can the minister tell us from which branches of his department the Minister of Finance has eliminated waste and extravagance? If he has, how much has been eliminated?

Mr. Starr: Well, all the hon. member has to do is look through the estimates for the past two years.

Mr. Pickersgill: Has the minister reduced his estimates very materially?

Mr. Starr: We have maintained our establishment, we certainly have not increased any part of it, and we are doing a great deal more work now. We have had the responsibility for a larger winter works program.

Mr. Pickersgill: And for more unemployed.

Mr. Starr: The Department of Labour is not responsible for the unemployed. The Department of Labour looks after the administration of labour matters, and the registration for work is conducted by the unemployment insurance commission, as the hon. member well knows.