

Has the department never thought of the necessity of maintaining a certain control over this resource to insure that Canada would get some benefit out of it rather than just have it exploited?

Mr. DROLET: In other words, what you are asking me is if anybody in our Department has worked on a policy with regard to mineral deposits of any kind, or oil in the Northwest Territories, or the far north, in the Arctic; if a law has been passed saying that these will not be exploited for the next 50 years, or something like that. My answer is not to my knowledge, sir.

Mr. PETERS: There has been no work done on this at all?

Mr. DROLET: No, sir.

The CHAIRMAN: Do you have a comment on this, Dr. Fortier?

Mr. FORTIER: As far as the case of the Little Cornwallis Island is concerned, the major companies have developed an interest in the matter; it is in good hands. The same thing applies to the Mary River iron deposits on Baffin Island.

However, there is another problem to this question of state intervention. I can raise it here only as a problem for serious consideration, I suppose. It has come to my attention lately that we have missed exploration activities in Canada by fine companies that are largely government-owned. I might cite some French or British governmental interests that are active in this country. These are what we might call crown companies. This is a topic for further study, and I am not ready to discuss it at the moment.

Mr. PETERS: Mr. Chairman, the reason I mentioned Little Cornwallis Island was because it is almost pure zinc. It goes a long piece down, and you can pick it up on the shore. Obviously this zinc will go to Japan or some other countries because we are not in a position to use it, and as long as the world market is sufficient to warrant the commercial aspects of it, this will be developed. It seems to me that the Department of Mines should have made some surveys concerning the question whether it is in Canada's interest to develop these resources at the present time. It does not matter who owns the company. Hollinger Mines in Labrador exploited the area and shipped the iron out just the same as a Canadian company. There is no question about the ownership. It is just whether it is in the interest of Canada to allow the stockpiling of all of our mineral resources in other countries; whereas we might as well stockpile them in the ground now that we know where the minerals are.

Mr. DROLET: Well, sir, you are posing a big question, namely should we export from Canada raw ore concentrates, or only finished products? We could get into a long discussion, on this subject but let us take one specific example. Recently in Canada we found a big deposit of lead and zinc in the Pine Point area of the Northwest Territories. A special export permit was asked for by the company who is exploiting this deposit; they require permits from Canada to export more to Japan. Then we wondered whether this would be the right time to build a new smelter in Pine Point area, or whether we should enlarge another smelter somewhere in northern B.C. We study these questions, and we have a division in our Department of Mineral Resources Branch which is staffed