



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

OTTAWA - CANADA

No. 68/7

THE CHALLENGE OF RAPID INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

An Address by the Honourable C.M. Drury,
Minister of Industry, to the Canadian
Industrial Development Conference, Ottawa,
March 5, 1968.

...I am extremely pleased that my Department has had a part in initiating this important step towards the possible formation of an association of industrial development officers. Effective industrial development of necessity requires the joint participation of numerous professionals with a wide diversity of knowledge and broad functional responsibilities, and there are compelling reasons why those engaged in this important task should be more closely associated in their endeavours. Although my Department's Area Development Agency has done a good deal of the work on the administrative details of this conference, I understand that the idea of forming a Canadian association has been in the minds of many of you for some time.

Some areas have organized provincial or regional groups, but there has been no national organization which could serve as a clearing-house or as a country-wide forum for industrial developers from coast to coast. It is our belief that a national association, of whatever structure you may decide, could become a vital influence in assisting the performance of industrial development. It is for this reason that the Area Development Agency invited six key individuals representative of the various industrial-development disciplines to examine the feasibility of staging this conference for the purpose of discussing the establishment of such an organization.

We in the Department are grateful, and I know you are too, to those persons who have accepted the challenge of our invitation and who have agreed to act as a steering committee in convening these meetings. These committee members took time from their busy schedules to meet in Ottawa several times to plan the guide-lines and the format for these sessions so that all of you could gather here to discuss the merits of a national association.

Catalytic Role

I should make it very clear that the role of my Department in this, as in other similar endeavours, is to act only as the catalyst in crystallizing an idea to the point where those most directly concerned can carry the experiment to a practicable and workable conclusion. The fact that so many are in attendance