

*Supply—Industry*

Mr. Chairman, it is worthwhile to see the extent of the personal interest of the Minister of Industry in industrial decentralization and so forth. His estimates do not deal much with this subject. All the members are loudly demanding industrial decentralization—in fact, we heard earlier the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) say that we should put an end to this rural exodus towards the urban centres where there are many industries, and that we should decentralize until industries can be established in all ridings or near the towns which will bring economic expansion to all Canadian ridings.

The member for Sherbrooke (Mr. Allard) said that there are a dozen textile industries in his region. He also mentioned a very interesting point, which is that Canadian industries have established branches or subsidiaries in the Orient, in countries across the Pacific, either Japan or China, where labour is much cheaper than in Canada.

Some Canadian industries even operate in Japan or China, bringing back textile products and competing with themselves. At least, this is what I deduce from the statements made earlier by the member for Sherbrooke, and I am not surprised.

As for electrical appliances, they are manufactured in large quantities by branches in Japan and shipped back to Canada. In the United States, manufacturers compete with themselves by importing products made in Japan or China. The same manufacturers compete with themselves with products made in Canada on the one hand and in Japan on the other.

Is that being very honest with the Canadian industry, the Canadian people, the Canadian government? Is it very honest to allow those industries to do that?

Mr. Chairman, we have other concrete examples. I come from a mining area the Department of Industry knows well. We have copper, gold, iron, zinc and lithium mines, in short all kinds of mines. One of our most important mining companies, the Noranda Mines produces gold, copper and zinc in huge quantities.

Not so long ago, the Noranda Mines officials decided to build a refinery to process the zinc mined in our area. Now, I do not know by what stretch of the imagination this decision was arrived at, but the zinc refinery was built in Valleyfield near Montreal rather than in our immediate vicinity which would have help create hundreds of jobs in our area. Then, in view of the circumstances and

of the fact that our climate is severe, in short that we cannot set up in our region all kinds of new industry, the Minister of Industry could have opposed the building of this refinery in Valleyfield and proposed its establishment in our area, since they would have processed on the spot metals found in our part of the country. The federal Minister of Industry and his provincial counterpart did not pay any attention to this matter.

At present, in Malartic, there is talk about closing the gold mines because the grants given by the government are just enough to allow mines to die slowly; indeed, they are disappearing before your very eyes. If we continue to make grants, it is only from a social point of view, that is for the maintenance of families in urban communities, in small towns, as they are called here.

Why is the government not taking steps, for example, to promote the development of new iron ore deposits in our area? There is an immense potential of iron ore deposits in the area of Val d'Or, Malartic and Senneterre, and I realize that it is not the responsibility of the government to develop and operate mines, but if the government, as a result of its foreign trade, found a market as for the Ungava iron, there would be within a year at least a dozen mining companies operating in northwestern Quebec. At that time, the government would prove its good will toward a needy area.

As I have already said, our area has numerous copper mines. Noranda Mines is one of them; in fact, it is probably the largest mining company of its kind in Canada. It produces large quantities of copper which is cast into sheets or bars, then shipped to the Canada Wire Company, in Montreal, a branch of the Noranda company, where copper wire is made along with many other items.

Has the Minister of Industry consulted the management and the shareholders of the Noranda Mine, as he should, to suggest to them the establishment of a subsidiary plant or secondary industries in our area, to process the natural resources right where they are being extracted from the soil of Rouyn, Noranda, Malartic, Senneterre and Témiscamingue where there are bituminous mines?

Mr. Chairman, at the present time Canada would be accomplishing a beneficial gesture toward such areas, which are not designated but which nevertheless need secondary industries. In short, they have a great potential and a promising future.