

Supply—Industry

want is concrete action". I see the hon. member for Villeneuve (Mr. Caouette) agrees with me wholeheartedly.

We want concrete action and the best way to achieve that is through the establishment of industries where there are none, particularly in underdeveloped and rural areas, to multiply jobs and prevent the exodus of our country people.

That is what I want to fight for in this house and I am convinced that this philosophy is shared by the minister to whom I want to repeat my congratulations for the fine work he has been doing since he has taken charge of the department.

Mr. Caouette: Would the hon. member for Lotbinière allow me a question?

Mr. Choquette: With pleasure.

Mr. Caouette: Has the minister to whom he has just referred been created out of nothing?

Mr. Choquette: I said that the only ones who can create ministers are the Conservatives, since they succeed in doing something out of nothing. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) is a striking example of what I am saying.

Mr. Allard: Mr. Chairman, I was not surprised this afternoon to see the hon. member for Lotbinière (Mr. Choquette) take the floor again because I must say that, in my humble opinion, he is a very active member, he assumes his responsibilities and makes his electors' views known to the house.

However, even if I do not always follow him right to the end, I must say that he was right to congratulate the Minister of Industry (Mr. Drury) for trying to promote the country's industrial development and particularly the industrialization of rural areas.

However, he criticized a remark made by the hon. member for Saint-Jean-Iberville-Napierville (Mr. Beaulieu) and I think that he was a little unfair to him because, in my opinion, in the field of industry, as in many others in Canada, jurisdictions overlap at present.

That is not surprising because in 1867 industrialization was nothing to worry about and the Canadian constitution could not foresee the fantastic program which we are witnessing and into which we are driven, mostly by our giant neighbour, the United States.

In that field, as in many others which we mentioned over the last three months, since the beginning of this session, we say that it is

high time to amend the Canadian constitution precisely in order to clearly define our governmental responsibilities, those of the central government and those of the provincial governments.

Departments of Industry are being set up in the provinces. How far can the activities of a provincial department of Industry go? How far can the undertakings of the federal department of Industry extend?

How must the provincial and federal Departments of Industry work together for the common good toward the country's industrial development to get quick and effective results?

The Canadian constitution has us in a strait-jacket and, once again, I take this opportunity to ask the government—and there again it would be taking steps in the right direction as requested a little earlier by the hon. member for Lotbinière—to do something which would enable members of this house, to work within a joint committee with the Senate that would lay the groundwork for a national conference, to clearly define the constitutional reforms.

Mr. Chairman, the longer the task of defining governmental responsibilities is delayed, the more confusion and tension are created between the provincial governments.

When the government introduced in the house the Canada-U.S. automobile agreement, I was greatly pleased to support it since it was an undertaking which had already given very good results.

• (3:10 p.m.)

I had hoped, like many other members, that the government and particularly the Department of Industry, would have given serious consideration to taking quickly steps to reach similar agreements in other areas of industry in Canada.

Obviously, throughout the world, there exists this spirit of economic union, free trade, and I believe Canada should take part in this evolution, this trend toward free trade, through the development of its industries and trade agreements with other countries, including the United States. But we must always take into consideration the views of Canadian citizens and take care that our existing industries do not suffer from general agreements which, on the whole, might be harmful to some parts of our country.

This afternoon I wish to speak briefly on the textile industry. It is not the first time I do so here. I intend to raise it again, for the textile industry is an important one, especially for the province of Quebec. In fact, 20