

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel): Order. Order. The Chair feels that perhaps the hon. member should rephrase that statement.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): I agree. You are not that stupid, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Speaker, I am not referring to you and I am not referring to the hon. member. Maybe it was an unfortunate word, but we do not seem to have the intelligence, Mr. Speaker, to realize that there is no Canadian car. We assemble cars here. The Volvo Company has a plant in the Maritimes. During the last election Liberals and Conservatives alike were screaming at me for driving a foreign car. This government supplied a lot of money for an assembly plant in Dartmouth to produce the Volvo I was driving. There is no such thing as a Canadian car, Mr. Speaker.

We could develop a Canadian car, Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt about that. Some very small countries have developed cars. We could develop one with a battery three times the size of the one in our cars now, because we need that. We could have the engine closed in at the bottom because of the snow, instead of the car that seems to be designed for Florida where there is no snow. We developed a snowmobile in this country which has proved excellent for recreation purposes. It has been great for industrial development, producing a number of plants employing a large number of people. But we have not produced a car, and yet we are one of the largest countries in the world and have a greater need for transportation. Transportation rates about the same as food and shelter in this country, yet we have not developed a car.

I suggest another bill will be introduced shortly, and I should like to see some major changes made. I should like to see this department abolished and the entire incentives program abolished.

● (12:50 p.m.)

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): And the minister, too.

Mr. Peters: I wish the government would again set up a department of industry. It ought to be divided into a number of subdepartments. The department of industry ought to be responsible at all times for the over-all development of industry in Canada. The subdepartments ought to be concerned about matters such as incentives. There ought to be a minister responsible for the Canadian content of goods manufactured. In that way, we could eventually decide how to regain control of our own industry and economy. Of course, the incentive program would allow us to gain control of our industry. We could introduce programs under which existing companies would carry on certain kinds of development. These companies have large amounts of accumulated capital. By writing in certain provisions into our income tax struc-

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ture, we could make sure that they spend that money for the development of industry in those areas where that is necessary.

The new department would also exercise some control over transportation, both by road and by rail. I keep hearing that nobody can go ten miles north of Toronto, because the transportation costs are too great. Driving within the city limits of Toronto is quite an experience for me. I do not see how it can be any more expensive when you get ten miles north of Toronto—but that is neither here nor there. Every conference I have attended in northern Ontario has alluded to the problem of transportation. The minister responsible for the new department also ought to have some say in the development of transportation. He ought to control the means of transportation that are available to certain areas and, if necessary, subsidize the operation of that transportation. He should, in so many words, "equalize" it. The T. Eaton Company did this 50 years ago, as did Simpsons. If you live in Moosonee, on James Bay, you can order any item out of the catalogue and pay exactly the same price you would pay in Toronto. Those companies have, in a manner of speaking, equalized their transportation costs. On entering an Eaton store in Toronto, I have often been surprised at not seeing the merchandise advertised in the catalogue. Nevertheless, that company is able to sell merchandise from the catalogue for the same price in different areas. If they can equalize their cost for goods sold from the catalogue, why can we not do something like that?

That sort of thing has not been done elsewhere because every little company has tried to make its own deal with the railroads and the trucking companies. If we had a department of industry such as I suggest, it could look after the interests of all industry in Canada, and perhaps it could work out a formula to equalize distances in this country. Of course, research will have to be done. The department will need to exercise control in this matter and say how this can be done, where it can be done and who is to do it. It will need to do its work through the issuance of licences and the introduction of incentives. It will need to make grants, and perhaps it will need to do it under the aegis of public ownership. In many instances, the department will need to utilize the services of Crown corporations.

I know that some hon. members here are like a bunch of sheep.

An hon. Member: Order.

Mr. Peters: They look on Crown corporations as socialist tools. Let me tell them that there are quite a few Crown corporations in Canada, and we have never had a socialist federal government. Look at Polymer Corporation. When the Conservatives were in power, they tried to give Polymer Corporation away. Why did they do that, Mr. Speaker? Because it was successful and because it was making money. By developing synthetic rubber products in Canada, we were able to create in Canada the expertise that made secondary industries utilizing synthetic rubber possible. All that stemmed from Poly-