

EVIDENCE

(Recorded by Electronic Apparatus)

THURSDAY, March 9, 1967

● (9.50 a.m.)

The CHAIRMAN: Order. Well, gentlemen, we have with us this morning three representatives of the Northeastern Ontario Regional Development Council; Mr. DelVillano, Mr. Kilgour and Mr. Cram. We will follow the same procedure which we followed when we had a delegation from western Ontario before us. We will ask these gentlemen at the outset to give us an outline of their representations in order that they may comment, and then we will throw the meeting open for questions or comments from the members. I will first call on Mr. Cram, but before I do I would ask that you make sure you have a microphone in front of you when you speak. Also, would you first state your name because these proceedings have to be transcribed. I will call on Mr. Cram to outline the presentation of the group.

Mr. JOHN CRAM (*Northeastern Ontario Regional Development Council, Cobalt, Ontario*): Mr. Chairman and honourable members, my name is John Cram and I am from Cobalt, Ontario, which is in the riding of Timiskaming. My specific interest in life is operating a smelter and refinery for the silver fields area.

At this Committee hearing I represent the Northeastern Ontario Regional Development Council as second vice-president. We have with us Mr. DelVillano, who is first vice president. Our president, Mr. Austin Hunt, was unable to attend. Just before noon yesterday I was asked by our general manager, Mr. Cecil Hewitt, who is also here, if we could attend. I hope you realize that so far as presentation is concerned, this is a little bit of a fast ball.

I would like to express our appreciation to Mr. Peters, the member from Timiskaming, for inviting us to attend. I am the only one present from his riding. We have representatives from Cochrane South and from Nipissing, which does not cover our whole riding but, because of the limitations, we could not do better.

We are not even sure of the terms of reference of your Committee, but we understand they have to do with designation, industrial development and associated problems, and as such we will try to give you some of the opinions of the Northeastern Ontario Regional Development Council. We have been working fairly closely with them in trying to find, if possible, some answer to these problems and we will give you our local points of view. As some of you have heard—and some of you took part in—this committee of the north was originally organized by Mayor Dickerson of North Bay and it attended in Ottawa twice. They also made a presentation to the Cabinet of Ontario a while ago along with the Northeastern Ontario Regional Development Council. We have this report which we can leave with you. It is aimed at the problem from a provincial level. Many of the problems that we have are probably provincial, but I think that probably you as well as ourselves now know that out in the regions that designation, as it is now set up, is to a large extent “for the birds”. It is not accomplishing the purpose for which it was intended. Perhaps it was intended to do