

Establishment of Industry Department

by the actions of both the provincial government and the federal government, though it still needs more employment for its people. Although the location of a penal institution there certainly could not be considered as locating an industry there, this would provide a significant amount of employment for the people and it would be most helpful if it could be got under way as quickly as possible. The Minister of Justice informed me that tenders will not be called for the construction of this institution before October of this year, but if there is anything the minister can do to hurry things along, perhaps by letting the contract for site clearing or something of that nature at an earlier date, it would be a tremendous benefit to the people of the area. May I also say that if there is any way the minister can assist in locating more industry in the town of Springhill it would be very beneficial to the people of that town, to my constituency and to Nova Scotia generally.

The towns of Oxford and Parrsboro also need assistance if the minister is able to provide it, and I might bring to his attention—

The Chairman: Order. I regret that I must interrupt the hon. member, but his time has expired.

Mr. Woolliams: Mr. Chairman, I am happy to speak today on this resolution. I noticed that when the Prime Minister introduced the resolution he dealt with three or four subjects. He indicated that he felt that such a new department would service the manufacturing industries and would assist in stepping up production throughout the country so there might be new jobs for approximately 250,000 people coming into the labour pool each year. He also admitted that much of the work this new department will assume is being done at the present time by the Department of Trade and Commerce and the Department of Defence Production, but said that there would not be duplication.

He also said that although it would be necessary to hire more people, to take on more bureaucrats, the numbers involved would not be too great because some of these people would be borrowed from the Department of Trade and Commerce and the Department of Defence Production. He promised that this new department, which would be interested in industry and interested in increasing the productivity of the country, would not be eroding any provincial right. He asked the house, on that basis, to approve the resolution so the government could bring forward the bill to set up this new department.

Whenever I have spoken I have been one of those who have always been against any

[Mr. Coates.]

increase in the civil service generally, and I am going to base the first part of my argument on that premise. It was interesting to note that today when the Leader of the Opposition asked the Prime Minister a question concerning a statement he made on March 6, the Leader of the Opposition did not get a clearcut answer. I believe we should immediately place on the record the statement the Prime Minister made as quoted by the *Ottawa Citizen*. I am sure that if a statement is quoted by the *Ottawa Citizen* it is a fairly accurate record so far as Liberal statements are concerned.

The reference is to a speech made by the Prime Minister, then leader of the opposition, during the campaign on March 6, 1963. At that time he was trying to secure votes from the eastern farmers by pointing out that the Liberals would be cutting the costs of running the government. He held out a solemn promise in this regard, that there would be some reduction so far as departments were concerned, so far as the number of bureaucrats were concerned. This is what he said on this occasion. Of course all of us know that many promises were made during the last election campaign by the Liberals which any reasonable government could not ever hope to carry out. Nevertheless this is what he said on this occasion:

Mr. Pearson's proposed associate minister of agriculture is the second new cabinet appointment he has promised. The first was a minister of industry, to take over part of the function of the Department of Trade and Commerce, but to concentrate particularly on industrial expansion problems.

This is the important part.

However, he also said he would abolish the post of associate defence minister, so there would be a net gain of only one cabinet portfolio.

In other words he was telling the farmers that he was going to set up a new department of industry, create a new deputy minister and hire a lot of bureaucrats, but that he was also going to cut the costs of government by eliminating one portfolio, that of associate defence minister. The answer given by the Prime Minister today was to the effect that this government kept the associate minister because there was some confusion in defence policy. My answer to the Prime Minister, Mr. Chairman, is that if there is any confusion in defence he brought it about.

The Chairman: Order. May I draw to the attention of the hon. gentleman the fact that he should confine his remarks to the resolution now before the committee, which deals with the establishment of a department of industry. I have serious doubts as to whether he can discuss other departments.