

Proceedings on Adjournment Motion

parliament itself should periodically or regularly review various departmental regulations and directives to see if there were any cases where such regulations or directives went beyond the scope and intent of the actual legislation upon which they were based.

It is quite conceivable to me that prior approval by a group or committee of knowledgeable members of parliament of the effect of these regulations might be desirable. As a former municipal councillor, I can attest to the fact that this problem occurs at that level of government. I believe the provincial area would not be immune to this problem either. The view I expressed did not deal with any one particular government department or piece of legislation, but if there were cases that anyone wished to bring to my attention, including regulations or directives relative to the administration of government policy on bilingualism in the public service, I said I would be interested in hearing about them.

In answer to the first part of the hon. member's question on page 7900 of *Hansard*, may I just say that I doubt that the Prime Minister has attached any conditions to my particular job as his Parliamentary Secretary that would make it mandatory for him to agree with everything I think or say.

My concern in respect of government policy regarding bilingualism in the public service is that the laudatory aim of the government in making federal services available in the two official languages to all Canadians be administered in such a way and these services provided in such a manner that there is no bar or hindrance to any public servant who wishes to perform such services.

FINANCE—NORTHERN ONTARIO—ALLEGED
INVESTMENT DISCRIMINATION

Mr. Ralph Stewart (Cochrane): Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) and his Parliamentary Secretary have to be away, but I believe someone else is here in the minister's stead and I am sure the Minister will take cognizance of my remarks when he returns.

Last Wednesday, as recorded at page 8173 of *Hansard*, I asked this question of the Minister of Finance.

Since the minister has announced that there will be new regulations governing the trust companies can he assure the house that there will no longer be a double standard on the part of lending institutions, which discriminates against capital investment in Northern Ontario?

[Mr. Walker.]

When I speak about this discrimination on the part of the lending institutions, I do not necessarily speak about willful discrimination against Northern Ontario. Rather it is something that is unconscious. It is because of a lack of knowledge of the north and of the great wealth and the future that we have in that area. However, the net result is a double standard because a loan for a project in the industrialized southern cities is relatively easy to obtain, but a similar loan in Cochrane, Kapuskasing or Hearst would be impossible to obtain.

I know that most hon. members of this house who are not familiar with Northern Ontario are not aware that this is actually the case. There is no one who will admit that this kind of double standard exists, but nevertheless it is there.

I do not suggest for a moment that the Minister of Finance can advise the trust companies and other lending institutions to whom they must make loans, but I wonder if it is not possible for a certain percentage of the funds of trust companies to be placed aside for the development of such areas as Northern Ontario. A certain percentage could be put aside and not used in the large cities of the industrialized south.

Perhaps the minister could use persuasion, if not legislation, in this regard. As I say, I believe this is an unconscious thing because people do not know about Northern Ontario. For this very reason, Mr. Speaker, I intend to have an economic conference in Northern Ontario which may perhaps partly solve this problem. At least it will bring businessmen from the industrialized south to the north so that they will become more familiar with our problems.

I have organized a two day conference which will bring forward the top executives from the financial community in general, from large industry and from government, who will come to Northern Ontario and spend those two days discussing these problems. There will be present the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, (Mr. Marchand) who will make a major speech in Cochrane, putting forward his ideas on the regional development of Northern Ontario. There will also be present the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) to speak about matters of transportation and freight rates which are so vital to our area.

But there is nothing we can do in the North without proper capital investment. This is why I have invited a number of these people to come and look at our problems, to see