

*Supply—Industry*

I do not think that it is fair to inveigh against the authorities if they cannot put the project into operation overnight.

Heavy industry, such as the steel industry, requires long range planning, and not only studies with a promise to extend their operations, but also continued negotiations which of necessity require a great deal of time.

I share the optimism shown by the premier of Quebec. I am convinced, as he is, that this steel complex will be established in Bécancour, but we must be patient. All the economic effects have to be provided for. They will be tremendous. Thousands of jobs will be created in the area which itself will be transformed to a tremendous and wonderful degree.

It must then be recognized that the policy whereby heavy industries are set up in rural areas jibes perfectly with the electoral commitments of the federal Liberals namely that industries needed to be decentralized and rural areas industrialized. Here is the fundamental problem in rural areas: the young people shy away more and more from the land, from the beautiful occupation of farming; they seek employment in industries.

The young people want to work and to do so they must go into exile. Under the circumstances, if we make an effort, constant and persistent, to industrialize those rural areas, not only will we fight poverty, but we will keep the young people born to rural families where they belong.

That goal is very dear to the party in office. We can then but rejoice to see the efforts which are being made in the province of Quebec toward industrial decentralization.

What is more, how could we not rejoice when the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys—he was here a few moments ago—jointly with the premier of the province of Quebec, Mr. Lesage, have announced the construction of a thermonuclear plant at Bécancour? How then can the people of that region be sceptical about the setting up of a steel complex?

It is obvious that ties link, on the one hand, the steel complex, and on the other, the thermonuclear plant which Atomic Energy of Canada approved with Bécancour was chosen by the provincial authorities of Quebec.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot but commend all those projects and believe in the importance of those projects which will become a huge source of prosperity for the Bécancour area

[Mr. Choquette.]

which is located near the fine constituency which I have the honour to represent and of which I am proud. I wish to take this opportunity to greet the people of Lotbinière who are here in the gallery.

And now, Mr. Chairman, if we want to industrialize rural areas, especially if Bécancour—

• (3:00 p.m.)

[English]

**Mr. Churchill:** Why don't you speak to the house instead of to the gallery?

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Chairman, when I speak I speak for the people of Canada. My hon. friend should do the same. I speak for the people of my riding. If my hon. friend were to do the same, he would not speak in opposition all the time.

**Mr. Churchill:** Would the hon. member permit a question?

**Mr. Choquette:** With great pleasure.

**Mr. Churchill:** In his opening remarks there is this sentence, produced through the translation system: "This government has created this minister".

I was not aware that the Liberal government had taken unto itself divine power. Alternatively, if the hon. member is an atheist, does he not still believe in the stork?

[Translation]

**Mr. Choquette:** Mr. Chairman, I believe the translation was inaccurate. I said that the present government had created the Department of Industry, because the only people who can create a minister are the Conservatives, since creation consists of making something out of nothing.

Mr. Chairman, I want to go on briefly with my few remarks and urge the present government as strongly as I can to take advantage of the jurisdiction it is now exercising and to take all possible means to really fight poverty in an efficient and concrete way.

I had the opportunity to spend a few days in the United States and I listened to Mr. Schriver giving a lecture on the war on poverty.

It was at that meeting that a dispute—I shall not say a scuffle—occurred between the audience and Mr. Schriver. Indeed, the latter was told: "Stop using big words like sociology, psychology and all sorts of long words that do not solve any problems. What we