

Instead of sending inspectors out in the field to check on industry's bookkeeping, he could offer the services of experts to help industry solve its problems.

Instead of being a nightmare, those experts would lighten the burden which industry has to carry and that would serve the interests of most of those concerned.

(Text):

Mr. Baldwin: Mr. Chairman, this is one of the much vaunted economic measures which the government has presented to this house and which it is asking to be enacted. To find out what it is all about it is necessary to read very carefully the resolution which is presented and upon which will be based, I assume, the legislation. It is also necessary to read quite carefully what was said by the Prime Minister at the time he introduced the resolution. If you do this, and if you read not only what was said but the implications behind what was said, I am able to say quite definitely that, like all the rest of the measures, stripped of the tinsel of the glittering phrases and the pretentious words it is nothing but a puny and undernourished scarecrow of an economic measure. I do not think there is any question about that. To establish my point I want to deal with just one particular part of the resolution. I think my hon. friend from Bow River has more than adequately disposed of the principal part of the resolution. I want to deal with that part which is set out in section (b) of the resolution, which is:

—to provide for the establishment under the direction of the minister of an area development agency and to provide for the appointment of a commissioner and a deputy commissioner for area development;

To understand that, Mr. Chairman, I think you have to read what the Prime Minister said at the time he introduced the resolution. At page 803 of *Hansard* he deals with this subject. I am not going to read all his comments, but I would read this particular interpretation of what he considers this legislation can do in so far as these areas are concerned:

It will create in Ottawa a small group of people whose special responsibility, on behalf of the minister of industry, will be to make sure that various federal policies are conceived and co-ordinated in ways which will be of maximum help to the areas of maximum need. Again, the point is to make action more effective by providing a focus for it. In this sense the area development agency will be co-ordinating rather than executive.

Before that, as reported at page 801, when first dealing with the resolution he said this:

Establishment of Industry Department

The point and purpose of the department of industry, which it is proposed to set up, will be to assist in transmitting these various ideas into effective action.

"These various ideas" relates back to comments he had just finished making about the establishment of an economic council of Canada. Consequently, it is necessary to have recourse to and examine what he said regarding what this particular measure to establish an economic council of Canada will do, because the Prime Minister himself has introduced this subject into the debate. In so far as concerns this particular aspect of the department of industry which it proposes to deal with, the economic council for Canada will make a study of how economic growth, technological change, automation and international economic changes may affect employment and income in Canada as a whole. It will also study how national economic policies could best foster the balanced economic development of all areas of Canada.

In other words, the economic council is going to be a "think" factory over which will preside, so I am told, the President of the Privy Council. Having developed its thoughts, its ideas—by what formula we do not know, whether by spontaneous combustion or by slaughtering a chicken every morning and examining the entrails to get some ideas and thoughts as to what is calculated to be best in helping the people of Canada—these particular studies will then be transmitted, if I correctly interpret what the Prime Minister said, to the commissioner and the deputy commissioner for area development.

Here we are getting, in my humble opinion, a perfect example of the fragmentation of departments and the consequent futility of the kind of government operations which this government is asking the house to pass and is asking the people of Canada to accept. The President of the Privy Council will probably act as a midwife to preside at the birth of these brainstorms.

Mr. Pickersgill: That is a rather mixed metaphor.

Mr. Baldwin: The function of the commissioner and deputy commissioner will probably be that of an adopting agency. They will take these ideas probably without ever having collaborated or worked together with the economic council in developing them. The sole function of this agency, as I interpret it and as I interpret what the Prime Minister said,