

*Supply—Transport*

New Brunswick went to Japan to be smelted instead of coming just 200 miles to Murdochville.

In one case Japan overbid one of our Canadian companies for this copper concentrate. I hate to think, having an industry in this area, that government charges are going to forbid us processing our natural resources in our own province or our own country. We have had to send it to Japan, and they send us back the copper plates. This is not paying much attention to a designated area, Mr. Chairman.

Recently we have been receiving concentrates from Newfoundland, and I heard a few days ago that this had stopped due to wharf damage at Tilt Cove. However, these shipments are the sort of thing we want to encourage. We want to create an industry which operates on a year round basis. The government should give serious consideration to making it possible for our industries to survive in order that they can give employment to the 25 per cent of our labour force which is now unemployed. When I look at the figure for the total unemployed across the country and find 35.3 per cent are in the province of Quebec, it is an alarming situation. I would ask the minister to use his good graces to see that our area receives some consideration.

I am now going to the north side of my riding which, of course, the minister knows quite well, having heard a lot of debate in this house about a railroad which was supposed to be built in that section. I know this cannot be discussed on the Department of Transport estimates because there is an amount in the estimates of the Department of Public Works in connection therewith, but I should like to get one matter cleared up once and for all. I know that with the wisdom which we attribute to the minister he will be able to clear it up once and for all.

Two former members of the cabinet went on a speaking tour in the Gaspé peninsula. One of them was the then Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. He made a speech about the money appropriated by act of parliament for construction of this railway. At one time he said the money was not voted, and the next time he said it was voted. In an article datelined Ste. Anne des Monts—

*[Translation]*

—Mr. Maurice Lamontagne said, night before last at the Reform Club in Montreal, that the \$7 million which will pay for the Rivière-du-Loup dock will be taken out of the \$16 million earmarked for the north side of the Gaspé Peninsula. At an emergency

[Mr. Keays.]

meeting, the Gaspé Chamber asked that Ottawa clear up once and for all the use of the \$16 million.

*[English]*

On another occasion the hon. member for Matapédia-Matane made a speech about the \$16 million which was intended for the construction of a railway between Ste. Anne des Monts and Matane. He said that—

*[Translation]*

—the \$16 million which were intended to pay for the construction of a railroad between Matane and Ste. Anne des Monts will be used directly to benefit the areas concerned, that is to say the districts of Ste Anne des Monts and Cap Chat.

*[English]*

Now, Mr. Chairman, there is a contradiction somewhere, because that amount of money has not been spent on a railway between Ste. Anne des Monts and Matane. The first contracts for construction to be financed by money granted the province of Quebec by this government was outside of this area where there is no railroad. I should like to ask why this work was started in this area instead of the area designated by the government in their good judgment at that time.

● (12:50 p.m.)

On August 5, 1964, as reported on page 6425 of *Hansard*, the minister said parliament had already recognized in principle the necessity for Ottawa to take steps to improve transport facilities in the Gaspé area. This I agree with. But further on, as reported on page 6426, the minister said:

It will be noted that the federal government does not intend to allocate the complete sum of \$16 million to the road; we feel that part of this money could usefully serve for the development of airports and harbours which come under the direct jurisdiction of the federal government.

A number of plans for the development of harbours have been approved in principle and appropriate items will be entered in the supplementary estimates of the Department of Public Works.

Looking back over the estimates, and knowing the riding well, I believe there are two or three major projects which were to be undertaken immediately after that declaration by the minister. Not one of these projects has been carried out. At Ste Anne des Monts the money voted was intended for the repair of the wharf. Because of the bad state of repair of this wharf the ferry service between Ste. Anne des Monts and Sept Îles has been discontinued, and any connection we have with the north shore of the St. Lawrence is by means of a detour through Matane. Had we developed Ste. Anne des Monts the people