

Supply—Industry

area. Therefore we find that the national employment service figures for the city of Winnipeg and the areas south and east, which are all in the same division, show a relatively low unemployment figure. The fact is, however, that the unemployment figure for the areas outside, particularly in southeastern Manitoba, which really should be considered as an ARDA area, show a much higher rate of unemployment than the city of Winnipeg. These people are being discriminated against by virtue of the criteria applied in establishing designated areas.

I would urge the minister again, and this has been done by the Pembina Valley Development Corporation on many occasions, to give consideration to changing the criteria for the establishment of designated areas. I think income must certainly, in particular areas, be considered as a criterion to be used, rather than using national employment service figures. Rather than basing the criteria on national employment figures they should be based on census divisions, because this is more likely to produce a clearer picture, so far as unemployment in a given area is concerned than national employment figures.

• (4:50 p.m.)

I again urge the minister to give serious consideration to the changing of this criteria so that a more equitable application may be made in the province of Manitoba. The people who comprise the Pembina Valley Development Corporation have worked hard and long to attract industry to that area, and until the minister's program came in they were successful. Now they find that despite all their efforts industry is moving into areas which need assistance much less than the Pembina river valley and southeastern Manitoba.

I do not wish to create the impression that the minister should not apply this area program to other parts of Manitoba, but I think it is wrong to include the southeastern part of Manitoba with the Winnipeg employment service district. If the minister cannot be of any help in assisting the people of this area, then in the name of God let him not hinder them and be an obstacle in the way of development of industry there.

Mr. Knowles: There are times in this house when the constituencies of Winnipeg South Centre and Winnipeg North Centre get confused. This sometimes leads to a bit of humour. But on this occasion the member for Winnipeg North Centre would be quite happy

if the speech made by the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre were attributed to him.

Mr. Jorgenson: We shall take it as read.

Mr. Knowles: In other words, I commend the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre for making these remarks today.

Mr. Drury: They were out of order.

Mr. Knowles: The Minister of Industry may feel they were out of order, but bearing in mind the responsibility of the department I do not think that was the case. If we are to have a statement soon from the Minister of Transport with regard to the recommendations in the Thompson report, I think it is a good idea that there should be an expression of opinion along the lines we heard today from the hon. member for Winnipeg South Centre.

I join with him in saying that I do not criticize Air Canada for making its decisions on an economic basis. But this country is what it is today because of many political and social decisions which have been made in order that it might become a great country from coast to coast. I agree that there are decisions which have to be taken to bring about the decentralization of industry and the parallel development of our country in all of its areas. I therefore hope consideration may yet be given by the government to the government's own objective of decentralization by exploring the possibility of arranging for the maintenance base to be retained at Winnipeg, even if this has to be done at the expense of the people of Canada.

All of us from Manitoba would support such a decision. This may make some members feel that a regional position is being taken. In my view this is the case. I believe we are taking a position which is in the interest of Canada as a whole. As I say, this argument has been well developed by the hon. gentleman on my right, so I need not repeat the speech he has made on behalf of all of us from Manitoba. We are interested in various recommendations contained in the report of the Thompson commission. We think something should be done to develop more polar routes from Winnipeg. An effort should be made to get a direct route to Chicago. We welcome the opening of an air cargo base at Winnipeg. But these things do not provide for the employment in Winnipeg of the skilled personnel who are working