

Mr. SALTSMAN: Is there another department that takes the other considerations into account—

Mr. CONVEY: In the federal government?

Mr. SALTSMAN: Yes.

Mr. CONVEY: Mr. Drolet would know that one.

Mr. DROLET: Well, I know that Northern Affairs are greatly concerned with the establishment of towns in the northern parts of Canada, because they act almost like a provincial entity, but I do not know, except perhaps an indirect interest from the Department of Manpower now. But I do not know of any that—

Mr. SALTSMAN: ARDA?

Mr. DROLET: ARDA, yes.

The CHAIRMAN: Gentlemen, I am just going to interrupt the questioning at this point because we have to leave at 11 o'clock. We have a motion upon which the steering committee would like you to act, and that concerns the reduction of our quorum to nine, if it is all right with the Committee to do that at this point. Then if it is your wish to act upon Votes Nos. 45 and 50, which concern the present witness we can do so, or else we can stand these votes over until Tuesday, whichever you wish. But I would like to read to you the report, if I may, of the steering committee. At our last meeting, as you know, we did not get a quorum, and so therefore this report really incorporates the two reports; the first is just the formal procedure that we adopted, which included the standing over of Item No. 1 until after we have concluded our detailed study of the individual votes. At that time, the Minister would return for questioning of a general nature, and in all probability the Minister at that time will go into some of the other agencies that are not covered specifically in the estimates.

The other specific recommendation of the steering committee was that "Your committee further recommends that the quorum for the standing committee on Industry, Research and Energy Development be reduced from 13 to 9." I would appreciate, if there is no discussion on this, having a motion so that we can formally deal with this matter.

Mr. WAHN: Mr. Chairman, is it open for discussion?

The CHAIRMAN: Yes.

Mr. WAHN: The only question in my mind is whether the quorum should be reduced even further. I understand that some of the committees have been held up because of the difficulties in getting a quorum. The proceedings are printed. Members can always read the printed proceedings. If members are interested, they will get out. If they are not interested, there is not much point in deferring proceedings until a certain number of uninterested bodies are pulled in. I do not wish to delay anything that the steering committee may have agreed upon, but it does seem to me that it would be very good practice to get the quorums in these committees just as low as possible. If this Committee could