

We all realize that the concentration of population is in the big areas such as Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary and all those places, but I also realize that the only way to attract a population is to have something of interest for them. I think when we present a brief to you gentlemen that we will point out why we should have an increasing population rather than a dwindling one and why we require industries.

Now, let me refer to development in other countries. In Japan, for instance, over the years they have had all their industries in southern Japan, and then someone questioned why they had everything in the southern part and nothing in the north. They have now distributed their industries throughout the country. Why cannot we do that? I do not mention that only for northern Ontario, but for the people in northwestern Quebec and northwestern Ontario who are in this position and it probably applies to all the provinces. I notice we have some Maritime representatives here and I am sure they require some assistance as well. I always remember the saying that we should be our brother's keeper, but some of our brothers forget us. They make billions of dollars in certain areas and forget the rest of the areas. There is no reason why—I should not say there is no reason, because they certainly find a reason and I suppose it is a saving on cost—we could not distribute industry through the country to assist us. We are making a plea for our part of Ontario. For instance, Cochrane has lost the services on the railway. Hearst has lost their forest products exchange or trade, call it what you like, they have dwindled; the Kirkland Lake gold mines have nearly all closed except one and a half; Timmins has lost quite a few gold mines and we are in the process of closing one of the biggest ones sometime this year. I keep hoping they are not going to close but that they discover a new ore body. One of the mines which was going to close in the last week has discovered new ore bodies, and I do not see why we cannot discover new ore bodies across the country.

The tourist attraction that we have across Canada should certainly be considered. Some places which may only have a population of 200 or 300 people could have in the tourist season 2,000 or 3,000. When the federal Department of Industry asks for answers I am sure that all this has to be taken into consideration in the toe stepping—I suppose you would call it—of certain governments whose area of service it is, whether it is federal or provincial. I feel that it does not matter whose jurisdiction it is in. As long as we get the benefit, that is what we are looking for. This fellow who writes for a certain newspaper in Toronto and who claims that northern Ontario is no good to the rest of Canada, I would just like to see him start to consider the purchasing power of northern Ontario. I do not know where he draws his line. Some people draw the line just north of Orillia and some people draw it at North Bay. I do not know one is supposed to be the real northern Ontario. I do not think we should even use the word "northern", I think we should use the words "the large part of Ontario" or "the huge part of Ontario", because these possibilities are in all these areas.

I feel, Mr. Chairman, that we should concern ourselves with the criterion of designation. Some people do not like designation. Other people say, "Well, you had it for a year and a half, why did you not use it?" Well, gentlemen, when designation first came out a lot of people—including the big industries—did not understand it. Some did not understand it because of the fact that some places in southern Ontario got industries right away because of designation and I am happy for them, but you realize that we have to be taught that all of the province of Ontario is as worth while as any portion of