

Supply—Industry

also for the purpose of promoting additional industrial establishment in British Columbia. The premier of Alberta is in Japan at the present time and I presume, although I do not know for sure, that discussions will be held there with a view to expanding certain primary industries in Alberta which will be beneficial both to that province and to Japan. Newfoundland has had direct discussions with industrialists in the United Kingdom and Europe.

In matters such as this it should be the prime responsibility of the federal government to carry on negotiations and discussions with foreign countries. Therefore I hope that in the future the Department of Industry will become more active in assisting industries already established in Canada such as the one I have mentioned, and will also do some of the work which the provinces seem to have taken on and which I believe is perhaps a little out of their field, particularly when they are having discussions and conducting negotiations with representatives of foreign countries.

[Translation]

Mr. Choquette: Mr. Chairman—

[English]

Mr. Skoreyko: Filibuster.

Mr. Choquette: The hon. member has forgotten the historical debate on the flag; he has lost his memory.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, following the example of several colleagues, including the member for Saint-Jean-Iberville-Napierville (Mr. Beaulieu), I should like to congratulate the minister on the tremendous work he has done and the unusual vitality he displays in carrying out his objectives. Our friends opposite for whom I have much respect, will appreciate that it is this government who assumes the responsibility of administering the country, that it is the present government who took the initiative of creating this Department of Industry, and I think the absence of such a department was an unfortunate gap which we filled in. Having as head of this department a man of peerless ability, I am convinced that we will easily accomplish great things for Canada as a whole.

And it is an important thing, Mr. Chairman, to work eagerly for the industrial development of our country. It is a fundamental thing that the federal government assume its

responsibilities in that field because I am convinced that despite ideological trends spreading in the province of Quebec, the more efforts the federal government will put forth to promote and increase the growth of our economy, multiply jobs, help those who cannot afford to provide for their essential needs, the more we will be able to counter-balance the ideological trends which at one time, may have threatened our Confederation.

Mr. Chairman, in connection with the very interesting remarks made a while ago by the member for Saint-Jean-Iberville-Napierville, I would like to point out in passing the overlapping of "jurisdiction" which, according to him, constitutes an obstacle to efficient administrative decisions.

The member for Saint-Jean-Iberville-Napierville pointed out especially that to get a post office, it was necessary first of all to have the approval of the Post Office Department, which is quite normal, but that the approval of the Post Office Department did not settle the problem, because it was necessary afterwards to ask the Department of Public Works to find a suitable site and purchase the necessary plot of land.

Well, I am somewhat surprised at the amazement shown by the member for Saint-Jean-Iberville-Napierville in that connection, because I think it is quite normal that all authorities should co-operate in reaching such a decision.

He may be right when he points out that sometimes the co-operation is not always keen; this may be corrected, but I do not think that one should be surprised at this overlapping of "jurisdiction", which, in my opinion, is quite normal.

Obviously, my good friend from Saint-Jean-Iberville-Napierville yearns after the Union nationale administration where there was only one "boss" who decided everything. Then, everything worked well when the "boss" said yes or no. The ministers had no "jurisdiction". I understand that he misses this administration but we, who are imbued with democratic spirit, cannot allow such a system.

In the course of his very interesting remarks the hon. member for St. Jean-Iberville-Napierville made earlier, he pointed out some obstacles which crop up when it comes to locating major industries such as, for instance, "la sidérurgie de Bécancour", the steel complex.