

Supply—Industry

riding compete with other areas which have not been designated. Areas should be designated in a way which removes competition, in this case very unfair competition, so that full advantage can be taken of natural development in industrial areas.

One company in my area applied for designation under the old criteria and they were informed they would be considered as being adjacent to a designated area under the terms of the act. But that consideration has not been given. The community involved wished to apply to the Prime Minister personally and spend 15 to 20 minutes with him at a meeting he is going to hold in his own riding this coming week. The Prime Minister refused an invitation to communities who wished to be represented so they could discuss this problem, though they were invited to a social reception followed by a dance and party. As the reeve of my municipality indicated to me, he was very interested in meeting the Prime Minister to discuss this question but was not particularly interested in the social aspect of the occasion.

I do not intend to go into the matter now. To do so would be unfair to the minister who is really being abused by having to handle so many other departments in the absence of their ministers. It would also be unfair to my constituents, in fact to the people of northern Ontario in general. Regular meetings are being held by the northeastern development organizations, the northwestern organizations and the mayors and Reeves of the municipalities in northern Ontario, all of whom have endorsed the idea of designating all of northern Ontario. All are aware that this is the only way to assist municipalities in northern Ontario.

We have received feelers from a number of companies interested in industrial development but we are awaiting the final decision of the government regarding the criteria and their implementation. Many areas in northern Ontario will never meet the unemployment criterion because in northern Ontario it only means transferring people to Toronto where employment is available and the problem is solved.

We are not really interested, Mr. Chairman, in relocating our population. We are interested in relocating industry and expanding secondary industry. This can only come about through a re-examination of the criteria and of those areas already designated, particular-

ly those areas designated through a federal-provincial conference of the premiers and Prime Minister of this country.

This is only a \$1 item and it is therefore statutory in effect. I presume that if I moved to remove this \$1 item I might accomplish the removal of the whole program. If that were possible I would be prepared to so move because then we could start all over again and avoid many of the pitfalls we have experienced in the past. The minister of the department is very lax in his duty and has really not paid any attention to area development incentives. He has not given the leadership to the provinces he should have given, and in most areas of Canada the program has not got started. I hope there will be a change in this regard and that the act will be revitalized.

I am prepared if necessary, Mr. Chairman, to sponsor delegations from northern Ontario who wish to meet with officials of the department. However, I feel that the minister is aware of the wishes of the municipalities and the people of northern Ontario in regard to designation of their areas. He is also aware of the fact that so far in most areas designation has been totally unsuccessful. I know of only one case where it was highly successful, a case where in fact the area represented to the government that it did not want to be designated.

While I will not say anything more on this question I did not want the minister to think I would let this opportunity go by without saying something on the matter. I give him the assurance that I will pursue this question until a more favourable conclusion has been arrived at than has been the case in the past.

Mr. Johnston: Mr. Chairman, just as a matter of interest may I point out one error in the remarks of the previous speaker concerning designated areas in British Columbia. In fact the areas designated in that province include at least three constituencies other than that of the premier. We would be very happy to see more such areas in British Columbia. If there were no such areas designated then this would be just one other federal program which stopped at the Rockies. In such an event I do not think the people of British Columbia would be very interested in bailing out northern Ontario a part of that wealthy Province, with no return at all to British Columbia.

• (6:00 p.m.)

Mr. Kindt: Mr. Chairman, I have only a word or two to say. Since I believe that the