

last year only after an extensive round of consultation with the Provinces. On the matter of coordination of the Area Development programme with related policies at the Provincial level, the Minister pointed out that this same problem of coordination exists within the Federal Government itself. Those Federal programmes which have implications for regional development include the ARDA programme, the Atlantic Development Board and certain programmes administered by the Department of Manpower and Immigration. The Minister expressed the view that these programmes complement one another in helping to achieve the objective of full employment across Canada.

The Minister outlined to the Committee some of the results that the programme has achieved. As of September 30, 1966, a total of 798 applications had been received from firms stating their intentions to establish in designated areas. Of this number, 620 applications had been approved, or were under consideration, and another 23 had been reserved for final decision.

As of September 30, 1966, the total capital investment represented in active applications amounted to very close to \$1½ billion. The new jobs to be created directly by these investments will be over 40 thousand.

The Minister concluded his report by stating that the Department was conscious of certain imperfections. However, the Department has undertaken a comprehensive programme of studies and development work of their own to try and overcome these limitations. They are examining the possibility of finding a basic geographic unit for designation other than the NES area which would allow the drawing of a fine line in marginal areas. This problem is being investigated with officials of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and other agencies concerned.

A review of the programme by the Department is underway and approaching completion. As a result of this it was indicated that there may be possible changes in designated areas before April 1, 1967.

(b) The Committee heard representations on some of the problems associated with the Area Development programme from two interested groups in addition to other aspects which were raised by the members of the Committee themselves.

The Committee heard evidence from a delegation representing 47 municipalities in the four Western Ontario Counties of Bruce, Wellington, Huron and Dufferin.

The views of this delegation might be summarized by saying that they were concerned about the lack of new industry that has been attracted to their municipalities over the last few years. The rate of industrial growth in these four Counties is slower than in the larger metropolitan areas of Ontario.

They also were concerned about the adverse effect which the designation of the Georgian Bay area has had on these four Counties. They pointed out that the designation of the Georgian Bay area, while within a separate NES area, was really only part of a larger more natural economic or geographic unit, which included the four above mentioned Counties. They maintained that any new industry interested in their four Counties would be strongly influenced to locate in the Georgian Bay area because of the incentives they would receive and because there were no other significant factors which, for the purposes of