

*Supply—Industry*

are sustained in this country on both coasts not solely for economic reasons, but also for defence purposes. Similarly I would do the same with regard to maintenance for our aircraft. I think the minister has another way of looking at this. Charged as he is with taking action in what he calls designated areas where unemployment is rife, I think he should take action in advance of unemployment occurring in an effort to prevent trouble arising along that line. Here, through various reports and certainly through this Thompson commission report, he has advance notice that a serious situation is going to develop in the city of Winnipeg with regard to 1,000 skilled personnel, not all of whom will find vacancies existing at the Dorval maintenance base.

I suggest that there is an opportunity here for him to take action before he is called in and asked to designate an area out there because of unemployment conditions. I suggest further that in his plans for the development of industry and the development of skills he should do everything in his power to sustain in the city of Winnipeg this highly skilled labour force. It may be that he would have to direct their activities into other channels or associated activities; but this is what the department exists for. There are hundreds of people in these two departments, industry and defence production, who have minds capable of grasping this problem and of producing half a dozen solutions from which the government may select one. This just takes a little imagination and some vision.

On the basis of his activities as the Minister of Defence Production I think the minister should consider very seriously and at a very early stage what can be done in defence production with that group of skilled personnel in the city of Winnipeg. I do not know with exactitude the plans of the Department of National Defence with regard to the aircraft they will use in the future, but over the last three years they have had innumerable seminars and study groups and they must have some plans along this line of which the Minister of Defence Production must be aware. It seems to me that here is an opportunity, in the field of defence production, to sustain that skilled work force in the city of Winnipeg. I am not suggesting for one minute that the activities of the Department of Defence Production presently being undertaken by Bristol, Standard and Western Aero companies should be diverted to the personnel at

the Air Canada base; quite the contrary. In the past the Department of Defence Production quite properly has seen that those companies I have mentioned have had work to do for defence purposes. I quite agree with that.

In our term of office the former minister of defence production, Mr. O'Hurley, was very sympathetic toward the development in western Canada of a pool of skilled labour which would be useful for defence purposes. I suggest that this minister should take a similar attitude in this regard; he should project his plans a few years ahead and see to it that some part of the work in the future for the Royal Canadian Air Force—if it retains that name—will be done in the city of Winnipeg by skilled personnel who already are there available, whose homes are there, and who should be permitted to live in an area of this country in which they have chosen to live and not be plucked out and diverted somewhere else.

In the field of defence production I should like to know from the minister specifically—we might not be able to obtain all the facts today—what is the allocation of money by areas in this country; to what extent is defence production carried on in western Canada, or is it all centred in the industrial area of Canada, as we speak of central Canada. Once we start talking about diversification you will find that westerners and people from the maritime provinces see eye to eye. Although we are sympathetic toward our friends in the central provinces, we do feel that some of the work done here could be done equally well elsewhere. We should have carried out the policy which the Prime Minister enunciated at the dominion-provincial conference and which has been enunciated on other occasions.

To what extent is the minister developing the highly skilled trades out in western Canada and the technological capability in Canadian industry for defence production purposes? We observed what had been done during wartime with regard to having our defence industries pretty well centralized in central Canada. In those days there was a great opportunity to diversify and spread out our defence effort, but it was not done. Now, in this cold war period we are in a continual state of having to spend a billion and a half dollars or perhaps more on defence matters. Year after year this goes on. To what extent are we widening out our basis of production for defence purposes and not having it centralized in one area of Canada?