

Supply—External Affairs

tools and component parts—surplus and obsolete; electrical supplies—obsolete; equipment parts—obsolete. This totals \$24,941.98.

Printing materials—obsolete, \$18,209.60; paper stock—obsolete due to damage, \$167.15. Then there is residue dross metal from skimming melting pots. Metal which has impurities cannot be used in the composition process. It is skimmed from melting pots and salvaged, then declared surplus, priced at scrap value and sold as scrap metal. This amounts to \$398.63.

Residue gold foil, \$759.64; residue gold foil in inventory when the printing bureau ceased the gold foil bindery operation. It was declared surplus to Crown Assets Disposal Corporation and sold by Crown Assets Disposal Corporation to the Royal Canadian Mint. This makes a total of \$44,477.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

1e. Administration, operation and maintenance including grants as detailed in the estimates, \$474,100.

Mr. Herridge: I just have one question to ask. I have noticed that in recent years the government has been giving a free, all expense paid tour to the editors of the weekly newspapers in Canada. I think on one occasion they went to the United States and they are in Europe now. Can the minister inform the house which department pays for the expenses? Does it come under external affairs?

Mr. Benson: I am not familiar with the particular matter about which the hon. member is speaking. I do not believe it comes under external affairs. However, I will look into it and see if the government is paying for such tours and, if they are, which department is paying for them or which crown corporation if it is a crown corporation. I will supply my hon. friend with the information.

Item agreed to.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

15e. To provide that the amount appropriated by section 5(1) of the Area Development Incentives Act may be credited to the area development account from time to time as required; notwithstanding section 5(3) of the Act, to authorize payments out of the consolidated revenue fund up to the amounts credited to the account; and to authorize total commitments in respect of development grants under the act in the current and subsequent fiscal years not exceeding \$100,000,000, \$1.

[Mr. Benson.]

• (5:50 p.m.)

Mr. Peters: I have several hours of discussion I should like to undertake concerning the Department of Industry. I cannot think of any better place to undertake it than on this dollar item because I think that is about the value of the Department of Industry in the field about which I am concerned, namely, designated areas. As we are ending the fiscal year 1965-66 I feel I must raise this point owing to the many statements made in the recent election campaign by the Prime Minister, particularly in my area and in other points in northern Ontario, regarding the problem which has developed in terms of the area development incentive program.

We in northern Ontario were shocked, after the house had discussed for some time the criteria to be applied, to find that the criteria were being bastardized by the Prime Minister and the premiers of some provinces. I think members from British Columbia would be surprised to find that only one area has been designated in British Columbia and that is within the premier's own riding. This is also true in the province of Ontario where the riding of the Prime Minister has more designated areas than any other riding.

I suggest that this sort of designation takes no consideration of the terms of the criteria decided upon by the house. These designations were political manipulations by the premiers of the provinces in conjunction with the Prime Minister and were arrived at at the joint federal-provincial conference. I think it is a disgrace that such is the case, particularly in view of areas like mine which do not meet the criteria but are in a position to take immediate advantage of the opportunity offered if they were designated.

In my opinion this was a very worth-while program. It had the potential of helping many areas to help themselves in changing from primary industry to secondary industry as a result of the aid provided by the incentives. I think it is a shame that the result of the program has been far less promising than anticipated by all members of the house when the program was initially established.

The political implications of these designations are certainly not to be desired and in my opinion should not be extended. This program should be re-examined by the house. Particular consideration should be given to all of northern Ontario, though I speak only for the area I represent, and all districts in Ontario. It is not to our advantage to have a community situated in the Prime Minister's