

the line to the United States and buy Canadian made products for less than they can buy them in their own backyard?

There is one avenue that has not been examined. I mentioned the fact that there was a lack of co-ordination within various departments of government. One is the DREE program. I would like to ask how often does the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce consult with his counterpart cabinet minister, the minister responsible for the program called DREE? How often does he see him?

Mr. Paproski: He hasn't been in the House for three weeks.

Mr. Brisco: Of course the minister responsible for DREE has not been in the House for the past three weeks.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Cullen: Where did Joe go?

Mr. Brisco: I want the Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Cullen) to know that God is watching.

Mr. MacFarlane: When did you arrive—ten o'clock?

Mr. Brisco: What a band of restless natives.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Brisco: To continue with what I have to say, at least on this side of the House it is worthy of some merit even if the hon. member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. MacFarlane) has not recognized that fact. It takes him a while. He is a slow learner.

To continue, let me give one example of government co-operation. It is an example of how the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce works with DREE. There is a firm called Swan Valley Foods located in Creston. They developed a very innovative, challenging new system of processing certain foods, particularly potatoes and other vegetables. I had the opportunity of taking one of their senior officials to the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce to open up new avenues and roads of marketing their products overseas. I wonder whether the Department of Regional Economic Expansion would have suggested to this gentleman, this firm, or any other firm that they sponsor and assist with our tax dollars, to contact the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Just this week we received a release from the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. It makes reference to the fact that they have assisted 13 firms in Quebec. One firm manufactures fibre glass awnings and other metal products. Two firms manufacture kitchen and bathroom cupboards. Another manufactures door frames, and another ultra-fine knitted fabrics. Does anyone in the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce know about these firms? If they do, quite frankly I would be very surprised.

I must say, however, that I was very pleased with the response we received in the office of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. His deputy was most cordial and helpful, but we had to seek him out. Surely the government does not think that every small entrepreneur has the

Productivity and Trade

imagination or perhaps knowledge of the government structure to know where to go in order to best market his products.

There is another firm in Kootenay West that manufactures a product for overseas markets. What has happened to this firm? It is now in a position to expand. It is in a position to produce a new product which is in heavy demand on the overseas market. What does DREE do? It shuts off the incentive grants for that riding. It cancelled the application by that firm which went in three months before the December 31 deadline. They had every opportunity to employ people, provide jobs, create tax dollars and bring money into this country, but what did DREE do? DREE preferred to cut them off at the pass.

I wish to read into the record the sad commentary of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion and the fact that that department has nothing to do with the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. It is about time the two got together. This concerned constituent, this concerned entrepreneur has written as follows:

● (2130)

As I mentioned to you, the expiry of DREE designation for this region has been a serious blow to my company as well as to the area. I know you will find the following information to be of interest and I hope you can encourage the proper authorities to give the situation the consideration it deserves.

Right on! What is my responsibility, or the responsibility of any member of this House? It is to write to the minister in charge and plead the case. This I did six weeks ago. Mr. Speaker, I have not even received a reply in the form of a cursory letter acknowledging receipt of mine. That is an example of the co-operation we get from across the way.

Some hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Brisco: The gentleman goes on to say:

We have developed, at a direct cost in the order of \$140,000, a utility-size gasoline-powered chain saw. Our hope to obtain DREE help to commit it to production was delayed by financial problems. Toward the end of 1975, as a result of corporate reorganization and a general improvement in the chain saw market, we were able to plan a means to produce the saw here, but this would clearly be conditional on a DREE grant of an appropriate amount.

In discussion with DREE officials it was realized that our application would be "tight" in terms of processing time, but optimism was expressed that it could be completed, and if not, that its status might continue as being "in process".

We learned this week that our application expired with the end of the region's designation.

I must observe that on the basis of the previously mentioned optimism we invested \$4,875 in the cost of preparing our application and \$12,700 in related capital studies costs. I am not suggesting we were misled; indeed, we expect our DREE contacts are as disappointed as we. However, those sums are obviously serious expenditures for a small company and they weren't committed lightly.

The letter continues:

Early in 1975, at the height of our financial problem, we had to investigate the sale of our new product design. It was evident that it could likely be purchased for manufacture in Europe. With this new turn of events, if foreseeably we cannot find other means to finance it here, and we have certainly tried, we may need to recover our money by that route.

Let me underline one of the phrases in that last paragraph—"it was evident that it could likely be purchased for manufacture in Europe." In this new turn of events it