New Industrial Complexes

This growth to which I have been referring has led to the development of new industrial complexes in the Atlantic and Prairie regions which will increase the potential for growth for many years to come. For example, recent proposals for the Strait of Canso in Cape Breton Island indicate that the area could acquire a petroleum refinery and several chemical operations to complement the existing facilities, which include a pulp-and-paper mill, a gypsum operation and a heavy-water plant. Similar examples can be found at Belledune in New Brunswick, Brandon, Manitoba, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, and Redwater in Alberta.

There is no doubt that, in aggregate, we are experiencing unprecedented growth in terms of employment, capital investment and in total volume of manufacturing. We know, of course, that the growth has not been even and, while most areas of Canada have been enjoying a period of rapid expansion, others have only marked time or even declined in population, employment and income. Consequently, we should be aware that certain basic economic problems still persist, and we must be geared to assist those regions of the country to obtain a more equitable share of economic expansion in the future.

Canada a Major Manufacturer

In the relative short lifetime of this country, we have not only become a major producer of foodstuffs for the world, a supplier of basic raw materials - including minerals, petroleum products and wood products - but have also earned a place as a major manufacturing nation. To achieve this has required great initiative and faith on the part of the entrepreneurs and the financiers. It has required foresight and tremendous engineering skills by producers of power and by transportation companies. Senior governments have had to develop policies which would contribute to a climate conducive to the encouragement of investment in manufacturing enterprises. Municipal governments have had to undertake extensive physical planning to provide the infrastructure required for industrial expansion and for the community facilities made necessary by population growth. Since the manufacturer is an important corporate citizen, combining the roles of employer, taxpayer and producer of new wealth, most cities are now budgeting substantial sums for the fostering of industrial activities. In this regard, municipal industrial commissioners are now not just involved in the business of attracting new industries to their communities but are also deeply committed to community development in all its ramifications. The educational, social, commercial and service facilities required by the employees of sophisticated industry today put a new onus on municipal industrial-development programmes. That these participating agencies and contributing authorities need to be closely allied in their endeavours is obvious.

However, it should be remembered, too, that each of the agencies involved in industrial development usually is not acting from disinterested motives and that quite often agencies with similar motives find themselves in