

*Supply—Mines and Technical Surveys*

lize the Canadian dollar, beginning in June of 1961 when the stabilization fund was used to lower the value of the Canadian dollar in relation to the United States dollar. This was part of a deliberate program and policy to encourage industries that were already playing a major role in Canadian economic life.

I should pay a compliment as well to the role the officials of this department played in the successful trade crusades which took place during those years, in providing personnel with the necessary technical skills and knowledge needed to take the message to those nations around the world which were contacted during those very useful and successful trade crusades efforts.

All these achievements were brought about in the face of stiffening world competition. It is a well known fact that in respect of a good many basic minerals there is a glut on the world market at present. The fact that Canada was able to improve its position is of great credit to the dedicated men and women who served in this department.

Various members from different parts of Canada have spoken this afternoon in recognition of the importance to the total Canadian economy of the mining industry, not only in respect of mining itself but also in respect of subsidiary benefits. As a westerner from the prairies I am conscious of the impact of the opening of the Thompson nickel mine in northern Manitoba on the total economy of the province of Manitoba. That mine opened in 1961 and is gradually prospering, broadening the economic picture of that province. The development of potash in Saskatchewan is having the same effect, and we are all aware of the petroleum development in Alberta which has enriched the economy of that province beyond all expectations. The development of asbestos in Quebec and Newfoundland are, of course, playing similar roles there. I think I should pay tribute as well to the industry itself, because it is not only the government that has been active in the development of Canada's mineral potential. Industry is contributing something close to \$1 billion per year in research and promotional efforts, encouraging this important economic activity.

In reference to the point raised by the hon. member for Port Arthur and commented upon by the hon. member for York-Scarborough, I do feel that now is the time when the role of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys might well come under reappraisal and re-examination. I say that,

from the standpoint of personal experience, because during the period when I was the minister in the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, I had the privilege of being acting minister for the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys for some months.

It was brought home to me forcibly at that time by virtue of administering the two departments that there was a very close relationship between the functions of the resource aspect and also the northern aspect of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources, and many of the functions of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Oceanography, glaciology, the aeromagnetometer surveys, the Canadian geological survey, the geodetic surveys—all these scientific surveys so capably carried out by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys have a vital and increasing bearing on the success of Canada's attempt to develop her northern frontier.

It is a well known fact, as many commentators have noted, that the economic development of the huge area north of the 60th parallel is going to depend on the development of its rich mineral potential, that vast storehouse of mineral wealth which up to the present time has been pretty well a frozen locker because we have not devised techniques to make exploitation economically feasible. I have before me a recent article by Mr. Bob Hill who has travelled extensively in the north. The article is headed "Minerals in the Northland" and subheaded "Successful Exploitation Far From Assured". The basis of Mr. Hill's remarks in his recent article of August 21 is that successful exploitation is far from assured because we have not yet applied modern scientific techniques to that area in such a manner as to make it economically feasible to exploit this vast storehouse of mineral potential.

If there is going to be a reappraisal and reassessment of the role of the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, it would seem to me that consideration might well be given to a closer co-ordination with the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. This point was again brought forcibly home during the period when we were preparing for the resources for tomorrow conference. A decision had to be made initially with regard to how far the conference was going to go in considering resources. Was it to be restricted to renewable resources or should it also take into consideration the non-renewable mineral resources of Canada? Solely because