

Supply—Industry

10.4 per cent in France, 9 per cent in Switzerland, and 5.5 per cent in Sweden.

I am not suggesting that this division is not perfectly fair. I am not suggesting there is anything intrinsically wrong with the fact that in relation to a major project of this type Canadian business should only get 50 per cent. What I am suggesting is that this situation in Canada is not duplicated abroad. Contracts of this type in England, Sweden, France and Switzerland are not shared 50 per cent by home industry and 50 per cent abroad. I have tried as diligently as I can to get at the root of the matter. I ask the Minister of Industry to look into the situation to ascertain if Canadian industry is competing on the same terms with European industry in their bailiwick as we are allowing them to compete with us in ours.

I am not opposed to what we are doing here but I insist upon the same terms applying to Canadian industry abroad. What gives this question a real urgency is the announcement of the Nelson River project. I have a clipping here from the *Hamilton Spectator* for March 14 of this year which refers to a story in the *Daily Express*. The report in the *Hamilton Spectator* reads as follows:

The *Daily Express* yesterday devoted a half page to how Britain can "get away with a cool hundred million quid" from Manitoba's vast Nelson River power project.

That's three hundred million dollars in Canadian terms—and it's the share of the billion dollar development that Britain's industry hopes to corner for itself.

In a dispatch from Winnipeg, the *Express* quotes Gordon Husted, the resident British trade commissioner, as saying: "The plan is foolproof. Given the backing of imagination and enterprise from back home, the cash is there for the taking".

I do not mind the trade commissioner using these rather extravagant terms in talking to his people at home. After all, in some measure his own livelihood probably depends upon his degree of enthusiasm and persuasiveness. I am asking the minister to see that we in Canada compete on the same terms in the British market as apparently the British are able to compete in our market.

● (1:40 p.m.)

[Translation]

Mr. Beaulieu: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to pay tribute, on behalf of my constituents and the citizens of the province of Quebec, to the minister who comes from our area, that of Montreal.

I hope that he will appreciate that none of my remarks is intended for him personally.

For 20 years I studied the situation of industries not only in the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, and the prairies, but also in British Columbia and in the eastern provinces, and I have come to the conclusion that all Canadian provinces now have extremely good statistics.

I will take only one example, the province of Quebec. There was in the cabinet a minister who had been deputy minister of Trade and Industry in the province of Quebec. All investigations and research aimed at finding out whether it was possible to bring in new industries in the underdeveloped areas. We also helped promote the development of new industries in our province.

I was listening a moment ago to the minister saying that there was a scholarship program. I think that the period of scholarships within his department, considering the budget at his disposal, is a thing of the past.

To staff the Department of Industry, some of the most brilliant officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce were brought in. I think that there is now in that department technocrats and research workers rather well prepared for the work to be done.

All Canadian provinces are now in a position to provide our federal Department of Industry with the information it needs. In the province of Quebec, they tried to subdivide the province into areas, to direct industries toward underdeveloped places, but this failed to bring about any significant results for the good reason that industry goes wherever it feels is best suitable. People having money to invest would not invest it where it would not be profitable for them.

The province of Quebec, has more than 12,000 industries now and the province of Ontario has about 14,000; this means that 80 per cent of all our country's industries are located in the two large eastern provinces, Ontario and Quebec.

Quite recently, my area was chosen as a designated area. It is unbelievable to see a city like St. Johns, where there are hundreds of industries, chosen as a designated area. It is a prosperous city, so much so that, over the last 15 years, the population has increased from 10,000 to 35,000.

What happened? That is when the Department of Industry must give special attention to the choice of designated areas. Suddenly three or four industries closed their doors for uncontrollable reasons. The owners of one industry were told: You will not get