

*Supply—Industry*

Agriculture, the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys and the Department of Fisheries. It seemed a logical development that the Department of Industry carry on in that field the role that the federal government has had in other national fields.

This may be the intention, but in my opinion it certainly has not been brought about. We have about the same industrial development in Canada now that we had five years ago. But in this department directly we have spent now \$31 million and, particularly in the segment in which I am interested, I believe very little is being accomplished to give an indication that the money is being well spent.

Let me say at the beginning, Mr. Chairman, that through my dealings with the Department of Industry, it would seem to me they have assembled in this department a very capable group of people, at least in a large segment of that department; but let me hasten to add that in my opinion they really have not started to do anything except in those fields which are similar to the operations of those in the Department of Defence Production who had related roles. I am speaking of the special branches where we have allowed industry to control the branch. One need only look at some of the branches to see where the control lies. When you see the dominance that industries have over those branches you realize that we are not really going to expand in those fields when the people in the department are controlled by industry. Obviously they are not going to be interested in the little people. Obviously they are not going to be interested in new people, and obviously they are not going to be interested in the development of any type of industry in that branch which will hurt the status quo of the people who put them there. I think that is a fact.

I do not intend to go into that role, but I think it is time some of us take a look at the Department of Industry, because I am sure anyone who looks at the department will find it is not doing what we expected it was going to do or what most of the members here may believe it is doing. It may be that some have not given much attention to this particular department because it has not affected their ridings. They should take a look at it, because it has become a little hierarchy of the civil service which will multiply without really going anywhere. I think nothing will result unless something is done in the very near future. As I say, I have met a number of

[Mr. Peters.]

people in this department and they are very capable people. However in my opinion they are not going anywhere.

I should like to talk about the one area in which I am concerned and in respect of which I have some knowledge. I refer to the whole role of the designated area and the part it plays within the department. Before I begin, Mr. Chairman, may I draw to the attention of the house something which happened the other day. Probably it will explain part of the problem as I see it. I have heard several members say that the minister has done a fair job and knows exactly what he is doing. I do not believe this is true, and I think the Prime Minister agrees. I believe this for the simple reason that the Prime Minister represents a riding in northern Ontario just as I do, and has been concerned about the fact that the Department of Industry and the designated area program have not helped northern Ontario one iota. Neither have they helped those who live in the maritimes, and the northern parts of Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Quebec, and the other outlying areas which are not surrounded by the major metropolitan areas of Canada. I am sure these people also will say the program has not been helpful in those areas. The designated areas program has not assisted them in any way.

• (3:30 p.m.)

The Prime Minister came into his own riding several weeks ago and met a delegation there which stated again that they were receiving absolutely no assistance in persuading industry to come into the area. Even more important, they said they were not receiving any help in conducting a survey or inventory of their resources in order that they might know how to exploit these resources and what industries should be located there. The Prime Minister admitted that he did not know the answers and had not been supplied with them. He agreed that a committee of the mayors and reeves of the municipalities should be set up to consider the situation, and he left it up to the mayor of North Bay to get in touch with the other persons who should form this committee.

The Prime Minister promised that this committee could come to Ottawa and sit down with officials here to discuss these economic problems. They have done this and found the ministers of industry and manpower to be very helpful, along with a number of the personnel of these departments. During the discussions it became apparent