

should be publicized through the press, and the feelings of the witnesses and members of the Committee should have been reported so that people will know what is going on.

The CHAIRMAN: The time has come for myself as Chairman to sum up. One of the things that I might say is that some time ago Mr. Legault and Mr. Peters, both of whom are representatives of northern Ontario, expressed the feeling that at some point in time they would like to have the development association from their area or some group express their views. We have had some difficulty in scheduling this, but about a week ago we finally got around to seeing our way clear to hear the group. In the meantime the unfortunate events of last week caused a rescheduling of parliament, and therefore we were the only committee sitting this morning. Mr. Peters has been in touch with these gentlemen, and I think there will still be an opportunity to get some press coverage on the matter.

The other thing I would like to say, now that you have come here, is that we have appreciated the opportunity to hear your views. Perhaps you may be thinking, "What is going to happen? Where do we go from here? Is this just another group we have talked to? Must we go on talking?" I gather that some of you are politicians or former politicians or aspiring politicians, would-be politicians, so I think you understand some of the problems.

I think I said at 11 o'clock that all of these groups that have appeared before us must understand and get in perspective what we are talking about. Your comments on the area development agency are valid in the sense that in many cases it is not doing what you want it to do. However, I feel the best suggestion that I can make on where we go from here is that what seems to be needed in the case of northern Ontario, or in any of these other areas, but particularly in northern Ontario as one more or less homogeneous part of the province, is an approach such as a northern Ontario development plan where these things can be tied together, and the primary initiative in that respect, of course, is with the province. That is not to say that the federal government is passing the buck and saying, "This is the province", and the province says, "well, the federal government are involved in tax incentives, and so on". I think when we achieve this agreement there are certain decisions the province has to make about their policies on regional development, and it is from that point that the federal government can be of assistance in helping to attract industry by extending area development or through some other form.

In the case of the Atlantic provinces, for many years they have been engaged in studies in trying to develop an Atlantic provinces development policy, and in that sense they have been more successful than you have. However, as one of the gentlemen pointed out, we still have many problems in the Atlantic provinces. This is not to say that all of these things are working that well, but there is some consensus as to a development program involving the provincial government and the federal government through the area development agency, through the Atlantic Development Board and through ARDA. Therefore, what is really needed is some rationale for these proposals for northern development, and I think this is what we mean when we say that this involves co-operation between the two governments. I hope you feel that the time you spent here has not been wasted, because we are interested in this field and when we conclude our hearings we will be making some general recommendations.

This business of area development and incentives is a relatively new area, and I think we are feeling our way on the kinds of things we must do. There have been some