

Supply—Trade and Commerce

this discrimination but I am sorry to say that there appears to be not too great a sense of urgency in the thinking of the minister or the government in regard to finding the new formula which is needed. My colleague asked a question on September 21. He was told this was a matter of policy to be announced in due course. This was the answer after notice of the question had been taken by the parliamentary secretary to the Minister of Finance. The answer was given on September 30, some nine days later, and that is all the information he got. On October 1, I believe it was, I directed a question to the Minister of Finance on this matter. I thought I was on good ground in quoting a statement which I alleged was made by the premier of Saskatchewan that the minister's policies in this connection were stupid and shortsighted.

I have never got involved in personalities in making my arguments and it certainly was not my intention to get involved in any personalities when I asked this question, because a press conference was held in connection with the official opening of Kalium. I did not hear the statement but two people—and I checked carefully about it—told me that these were the words the premier of Saskatchewan had used. I thought it was a forthright statement of criticism. I did not see anything personal about it because the policies which the minister presents in this house are, as I understand them, the policies of the government and it was the policy the remarks were directed to. Certainly there is no difference between the premier of Saskatchewan and myself in urging this government to take action to remove a discrimination which may affect the early development of further potash operations in Saskatchewan. We are resolved in our aim and it is to arouse this government and arouse its interest in this matter so that they will take some action.

As I say, I know the difficulty but certainly it is not right that companies producing the same product in the same area from similar ore bodies should suffer discrimination because of tax policies and be placed at a disadvantage. These bodies of potash are there at great depth. There is interest in developing them. The capital is there but the taxation policy now in existence may cause a delay, the premier says, of two years in their exploitation. I do not think we can afford such a delay, nor can the people of Canada. As I say, I quoted the premier of Saskatchewan correctly, as I understood it

[Mr. More.]

at the time, as saying the policy was stupid and shortsighted. He has denied using the word stupid. I accept and apologize for having attributed it to him. In the *Leader-Post* of October 7 the premier of Saskatchewan—and we are not having a quarrel about this and I am not trying to argue whether he said it or not—denies saying that Gordon was stupid, according to the headline.

I did not say that either; I said that I understood the premier to say that the policies were stupid. I think this headline is wrong, because as I understand it the premier was referring to the policies also and not to the individual who occupies the office of Minister of Finance. I point this out, Mr. Chairman, realizing the impact of new industries of this size and this kind of investment on the economy of my province, and Canada as a whole in the years ahead—and it can be in the immediate years ahead.

All I wish to do at this time is urge the minister to impress upon his colleagues the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Industry—he has a great, new department of highly paid experts—to work on this problem and remove this discrimination. The Minister of National Revenue should also get at this problem, and get at it right away, because there is just no reason that we can condone for having a taxation policy continued, now that the solution mining process has been proven successful and is in operation; a taxation policy that discriminates, that may stall huge capital investment that will provide a large number of needed jobs within the next few years. This type of policy will not be condoned by the people of my province, and I certainly believe they would have the sympathy of the people of Canada.

I regret having directed my question to the Minister of Finance using words I alleged had been made by the premier of Saskatchewan, which he now denies and which denial I accept. I say nothing more in that regard. My purpose, however, is the same; I wish to ask the minister to use his good offices to urge his colleagues to find a solution to the problem that may hinder the development of which I have spoken. We need it; we do not want it to be stalled, and the matter has real urgency.

Mr. Alkenbrack: Mr. Chairman, in taking part in the discussion on item 1 of the estimates of the Department of Trade and Commerce this evening I have two or three points of criticism of the system as it is today, and