

of the Minister of Industry the result of a recent study in the Atlantic provinces. I shall be very brief in so doing. I refer to a study conducted by the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council, entitled "Recent Population Trends, Atlantic Provinces". The study was prepared by Arthur C. Parks, the chief economist for APEC. In the foreword of this report we find the following paragraph:

One general conclusion of the examination is that the population of the Atlantic region, relative to other parts of Canada, continues to be rural, rural population accounting for about 46 per cent of the total in 1966. Another general conclusion is that, with a few exceptions, the population of the larger regional communities is growing much less rapidly than is that of larger communities in the rest of the country. Thus the trend to population concentration is not as pronounced as it is elsewhere. A third conclusion is that much of the population movement which might be expected to result in a greater concentration in larger regional communities is a movement out of the region.

I should also like to quote from page 6 of the report as follows:

—in all of Canada urban population rose from 69.6 per cent of total population in 1961 to 73.6 per cent in 1966, and rural population declined from 30.4 per cent to 26.4 per cent. Thus while almost three quarters of Canadian population resided in urban areas in 1966, only a little more than half of the population of the Atlantic provinces was located in urban areas.

So far I have not told the committee the purpose of my putting these two quotations on the record, but I think anybody who has followed the request of Atlantic provinces members will realize that it is rather compelling evidence that the area development and industrial incentive program should be extended to all parts of Atlantic Canada, rather than leaving out the metropolitan areas of Saint John and Fredericton and the metropolitan area of Halifax-Dartmouth which I serve.

● (4:30 p.m.)

I want to put it on record because the Minister of Industry has turned down requests from Atlantic Canada that the cities be placed within the program, and the APEC study shows quite conclusively that if any real approach is to be made to Atlantic Canadian problems and any desire shown by the government to help build up that area, we must start with the natural growth centres and give them the benefits of the incentive program. As it is now, we frequently find that important industries are leaving Halifax or Saint John and moving out into areas where this program is in existence. I hope

that the points I have presented this afternoon will commend themselves to the present or the future Minister of Industry—who may perhaps be one and the same gentleman—and to the next Prime Minister of Canada.

I should like to note in conclusion that under the present act the minister has the power to cure the situation with a stroke of the pen.

Mr. McLean (Charlotte): Mr. Chairman, I have been sitting here two days and two nights trying to get a word in edgeways. I wanted to speak on the fisheries estimates, but due to the agreement to close the debate at four o'clock I could not speak until now.

I want to bring to the attention of the Minister of Fisheries or his parliamentary secretary the fact that the herring reduction industry is now being transferred from the west coast to the east coast and that no conservation measures were introduced on the west coast. Now restrictions have been imposed on the west coast. Herring on the east coast are being fished in great abundance and are being reduced to fish meal and oil and not being used for human consumption. The female herring produces 80,000 eggs each year of which only about 25,000 survive. Spawn herring are being fished in millions and they would produce billions and billions of small fish.

In the bay of Fundy we have an industry which has been there for upwards of 100 years and which has greatly increased its production in the last 25 or 30 years. Its raw material is small herring, and it does business all over the world. No one knows, not even the Department of Fisheries where these small herring originate. All we know is that they originate from the spawn herring. When they come to the bay of Fundy, they come in different sizes each year, so they are not all spawned in the same areas. I think the minister should have sufficient foresight to realize the necessity of protecting the spawning banks and protecting the spawn herring from being fished before they spawn. Otherwise an old established industry may be put out of business.

This industry employs upward of 2,000 people in the summertime, but the reduction plant employs only five or six people because the process is almost wholly automatic. The reduction industry is established in a designated area and it receives subsidies from the government, so that after five years they make a sufficient profit to be able to get out of business. But the established industry must stay on the job. As I said, no one knows