

*National Economic Development Board*

**An hon. Member:** If you want to know, they will make Hitler live again.

**Mr. Gregoire:** They will know in Rimouski.

mind of the minister. His remarks show that the government regrets it did not act sooner. It is now facing a fact and it must also realize that the situation has somewhat worsened. It is becoming aware of the fact, somewhat tardily that it has not been able to keep up with the impetus given to our economy by the Liberal government until 1957.

Hon. members who have been in this house for a number of years remember the efficient men who were then managing the business of the country, and especially under the leadership of the Right Hon. Mr. St. Laurent, when the present Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Pearson), in his capacity as Secretary of State for External Affairs, built up for Canada a reputation which all the countries in the world looked upon with envy.

Thanks to the constructive and practical action taken by the Liberal government in 1957 Canada had acquired the reputation of being one of the greatest exporting powers in the world. But since this government has been in power, we have come down one step—and yet we can no longer retreat, retrograde—

**Hon. Paul Martineau: (Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys):** Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member allow me to ask him a question? In view of what he has just said, could he tell us whether he has taken cognizance of the statement made by President Kennedy, today, to the effect that Canada was enjoying the greatest economic stability among all industrial nations in the world?

**Mr. Legare:** Mr. Speaker, I know the hon. minister does not wish me to report statements made by outstanding personalities on what the present government has achieved in the international field in the last few years.

I was then saying that on account of the present government's policy, our country had come down a step, from the standpoint of exportation, and that we can no longer step backward, and that the visions of a prime minister are not adequate to ensure the progress of our economy.

I would add that the statements made by the leader of the official opposition has done more for the improvement of our international prestige, last week, on atomic weapons, than all the statements put together, made by all the members of the present cabinet on the same matter, in the last five years.

**Mr. Gregoire:** That is not what they say in Rimouski. They are not wanted in Rimouski.

**Some hon. Members:** They are trying to make Hitler live again.

**Mr. Legare:** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of his colleague, the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys, who was asking me a question a moment ago, stated during the consideration of the bill, that the government wanted, by this legislation, "to obtain all possible information in order to step up our economic growth". If I understood well, he said "all possible information". But he never thought probably that his statement was in contradiction with the present policy of his government, which has much more prevented than promoted the statement of opinions coming from outside the house, and which even objected to evidence being given by certain persons.

I refer to the Coyne affair and to some legal advisers of the government who could not be heard before this house.

The minister added:

This measure provides for the setting up of an advisory board whose main function will be to advise the government on projects and methods of expansion.

I would like to think the minister is sincere. If he is, indeed, sincere, he should see to it that this bill be amended so as to enable certain organizations to avail themselves of the services of experts, economists and specialists in the preparation of briefs or reports on certain areas.

When I am speaking of organizations, I mean, for instance, some chambers of commerce, or boards of trade, in less fortunate areas, and regional economic guidance councils, certain federations of the Catholic Farmers' Union, or some labour unions, or even some professional groups who have not the required means for making a survey in a given area, but, if given necessary assistance for obtaining expert services, might make some very worth-while suggestions to the government or to the proposed boards.

The government has already set up a board for the promotion of sport. It earmarked—at least it intended to earmark—an amount of \$5 million to that end. Not even \$2 million will be spent, but it had been announced all over the country, and more particularly during the last election, that \$5 million would be spent for sport.

Well, if the government wants to spend \$5 million for the promotion of sports, I trust it will agree to have a certain amount of money voted to promote the expression of various views through the channel of some organizations.