

*National Economic Development Board*

occasionally nodding his head. They are going to fight to the end against them, and I doubt very much—in fact, I know perfectly well—that this economic development board which is being proposed this evening by the minister will be both unable and unwilling to cope with the interests that are represented by Mr. Capon and that Mr. Capon and some of his business associates and colleagues who are closer to the government than even Mr. Capon will make very sure that this board will not have any effective power; and if it is so rash as to make practical suggestions for the solution of Canada's problems it can rest assured that the government will pay no attention to them, any more than the Liberal government of the past paid attention to any such suggestions in its day.

It has been, of course, a very difficult task this evening for the Minister of Finance and the hon. member for Essex East. They have had to walk a very careful tightrope. They have had, on the one hand, to embrace, shall I say, the large hank of wool that was produced by the minister for pulling over the eyes of the public to persuade them that something is going to be done about the Canadian economy, and at the same time they had to make very sure—and both of them did make very sure—that they reassured those who before too long will be called upon to fill the coffers of those two parties in the next election campaign—a very difficult job; one which I once heard described as getting votes from the poor and money from the rich on the basis of protecting each from the other.

It seems to me that these two gentlemen this evening have solved that problem very well from their point of view. I only regret that more people were unable to hear the Minister of Finance dealing at great length with nothing, and the hon. member for Essex East standing in his place booming with indignation because this nothing had, according to him, been stolen from the Liberal party. Last week, Mr. Chairman, one of my colleagues and I were coming to the chamber and we saw the crowds waiting to go into the gallery. My colleague remarked to me that he thought the greatest disservice we did to democracy was to open these galleries to the public. This evening I regretted very much that they were not full to the limit because I would have liked to have had as many Canadians as possible listen to the preposterous twaddle that was presented from both sides of the chamber by the Minister of Finance and the hon. member for Essex East, quarrelling and squabbling, as I say, over the paternity of a baby that very few will want to own within a few

months. I wish them luck in it. I wish I could speak more enthusiastically and more optimistically of this proposal, but it is empty; it was meant to be empty; it will remain empty. It will, of course, help to solve our unemployment problem by providing some very juicy jobs for people who perhaps have been unfortunate in other spheres.

**Mr. Nicholson:** Mr. Chairman, in rising to take part in the discussion on this resolution I wish to make it clear at the outset that I also agree in principle with the establishment of an economic development board. We do need an economic advisory board; we need it badly. As the hon. member for Essex East said earlier in the evening, we have needed such a board urgently for the past several years. The Liberal party advocated this throughout the last election campaign and it is gratifying that at last the government has come around to our way of thinking.

Mr. Chairman, we live in a world of change. We live in a world where the rapidity of change is a paramount factor. The amazing developments in the field of science have brought with them increasing automation. Automation and the effect of the Soviet and the other trading blocs upon our economy and the economy of the rest of the world, the upsurge of population in Canada—which means that we will have 150,000 to 200,000 people coming on the labour market every year, even without immigration—all reflect the changing world in which we live. Such times demand clear and positive action. This changing world demands intelligent, long range planning; and the sooner we get it, the better. This economic development board, if properly constituted, could help provide the type of leadership and direction that we need. We need that direction in one field more, perhaps, than in any other. I refer to the field of the secondary manufacturing industry, because it is in the secondary manufacturing industry field that we have the greatest hope for providing more and more employment in this country.

It was not until the end of world war II that there was any appreciable percentage of manufactured products among Canada's exports. Within a few months of the end of the war, however, we began to export a wider and wider range of manufactured products. Later that range extended to include synthetic fibres, synthetic textiles, and even garments made of synthetic fibres and textiles manufactured in this country.

I see Mr. Chairman, it is ten o'clock. May I call it ten o'clock.

Progress reported.