

*Atlantic Development Board*

that is legitimate expenditure of public capital, non-profit capital, there to render a service and to facilitate the development of the kind of industry that private and productive capital has as its responsibility to provide. This is the kind of help that the maritime provinces need.

In addition, I should like to say this to the minister. He has spoken about the program envisaged for the Atlantic development board. Unless the government backs up whatever is done by that board with a basic change in some of its policies which will give support to it, then the board will fail. I am thinking of the transportation problems which concern this area at the present time. As far as public capital is concerned, again I think there is a need for improving harbour facilities. What about some of our basic trade policies? In addition to the requirements for public capital in the Atlantic area, I believe one of the greatest needs is the development of markets. This part of Canada is closer to overseas markets than other parts of Canada, and certainly the maritimes area has a large internal market as well. Our trade policies must be brought into line with the conditions we face at the present time if we are to get out of the economic problems which face us. But days go by; days are followed by weeks, and in turn grow into months and then years. Yet we do not face the reality of conditions as they are. The tremendous markets which are available to the Atlantic area are right here in our own hemisphere, if we want to consider them as such.

I realize that a lot has been done in the Atlantic provinces for the potato industry by reaching out to South America for new markets. That is just an example of what can be done. If we are going to facilitate the freest possible exchange of goods between nations, then not only do our trade policies have to be gone over, but we must also meet the problem of international settlements. We cannot expect the problem which precipitated the crisis in June as far as balance of payments is concerned to be corrected unless we get down to some of the basic flaws which caused it in the first place. Here is where the government will have to back up action, such as that we have talked about today, with a change in some of its present policies, and certainly give greater leadership and more evidence that it is able to cope with these problems in an effective way.

Not only do we have a responsibility to back this particular project with a different look at trade, but also we must solve our tax problem. We are told blithely that we have another royal commission on taxes. Because we have a royal commission on taxes we

think that all of our tax reform problems are being taken care of. I do not wish to be repetitious, but again hammering on this point may I say this. We cannot wait for one or two years for a royal commission on taxation before we initiate some of the tax reforms which the Atlantic area must have if industry is going to develop. It is the responsibility of the government to do this and to do it quickly.

We hear so much about royal commissions and about reports that it has been somewhat gratifying to observe that there is evidence of immediate action being taken on the Glassco report. However, we still have gathering dust in some pigeon hole many royal commission reports that have not been acted on. In spite of this we are in general agreement that many of the recommendations are good or that at least they contain some of the basic elements of action that it is necessary to take. I am thinking right now of the O'Leary commission report. Last spring Canadians were told that action was going to be taken. Nothing has happened. The throne speech again stated this was going to be done. Nothing has happened. Why cannot the government come out with these obvious things that our Canadian economy urgently needs?

The government must realize that, in regard to this particular development board, unless they do this very thing they are going to nullify any positive effects that could come from it.

I do not wish to prolong the debate today, as we are but discussing the resolution that will bring this legislation to pass. There will be an opportunity for this as the debate goes on. However, I would just remind the committee of this point. This is a house of minorities and that we have a corporate responsibility to the over-all picture to get behind a piece of legislation like this. I particularly urge on the government that unless they do share in this responsibility, they are failing their own responsibilities at the present time. To support the suggestion that we all agree to is good. Indeed it is basic, in order to facilitate some positive action that will bring about the reversal of conditions which we have today and which we recognize are not to the betterment of our country in order that we can begin to move forward as this country ought to be able to do and can do.

Just to recapitulate a little, I would say again that the greatest need of this Atlantic area is for public capital that will bring to pass those particular public development projects which are necessary and which will assist in laying the climate and clarifying a situation that will attract our own capital in order that this country can go forward and that this area will not remain the depressed area, not the area which is the recipient of