

*Atlantic Development Board Act*

glad to see that the minister representing Bonavista-Twillingate has made it quite clear to the house that this is only a floor; so this opens up possibilities to the organizations throughout the Atlantic area to make sure that this \$100 million plus is used up. However, Mr. Speaker, I am concerned with the fact that in the past, when we were in opposition a great deal was said about the representation on this board, and the fact, as the hon. member for Greenwood (Mr. Brewin) has just mentioned, that they were only part time and the remuneration was not what it should be. I would be most anxious to hear now from hon. members who had something to say on that matter some time ago. Now that their party is in government, I would ask them to rise to their feet and repeat those remarks. I am concerned with the make-up of the board because I go along with the commitment made by the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) while in Fredericton that this board would have a representative from labour, fishing, a mining man, a man from agriculture and somebody from lumbering. I would say that is a very good cross-section and I would welcome representation on the board from these particular fields.

**An hon. Member:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. MacInnis:** Since the hon. member representing Halifax (Mr. Regan) finds reason to applaud, I would remind him that this afternoon, when I asked if he would support the commitments made by the Prime Minister, there were five categories and he saw fit to support only one. He can applaud that one if he wishes.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. MacInnis:** All you have to do is ask for it. As the hon. member for Greenwood was saying, while in opposition the opinion was that this board should be composed of full time representatives who should receive more remuneration for their efforts. I take no objection to that. I take no objection to the fact that \$100 million has been established for the fund because, as the Secretary of State has said, it is only a floor. However, I would be anxious to know just what projects they would consider. I would like the Secretary of State (Mr. Pickersgill) to tell us, for instance, if he has any intention of building the Chignecto canal. I am not at this time advocating this project. Nevertheless, I would remind the hon. gentleman that on one occasion at least he did say he wished it were built. Since he is on record as having said this, I suppose the money to be allocated to the board will be spent on the Chignecto canal project, though the \$100 million he has mentioned will hardly leave much to be

spent on any others. I would also be interested in finding out whether the Secretary of State would consider the Newfoundland fisheries as constituting a project which could be developed by this board. The fisheries industry is all important to Newfoundland and I feel this board could go a long way in assisting a scheme which the premier of that province got under way some time ago. Later he came to Ottawa for financial support. With a friendly government in office and a friendly Secretary of State representing that province I am sure the premier will have no difficulty in securing the finance he needs. We in the maritimes had understood, following a television broadcast in Sydney, Nova Scotia, that the minister of transport would have been chosen from members representing the Atlantic region. I do not say this was a commitment, but the inference was left with the people of Nova Scotia that the minister of transport himself would come from one of the Atlantic provinces.

I feel it is necessary that everyone should be aware of what the potential projects are so that the house may have an opportunity to make sure that any worth-while projects from the maritimes would receive assistance and be the subject of action as promised by the government, at least before it took office.

I realize there are others who wish to say something in respect to this proposal. I only hope the people of the Atlantic area will make members of parliament on all sides of the house aware of their wishes so that representations may be made on their behalf and the necessary action taken.

**Mr. Regan:** Could I ask the hon. member a question? Is he satisfied with the percentage of new industries established in Nova Scotia during six years of Conservative rule that were placed in Cape Breton?

**Mr. MacInnis:** No, Mr. Speaker. That was a very simple question to answer.

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Queens):** The hon. members who preceded me said they would be brief, and they have been brief. I am always brief. I should like to say I agree with the hon. member for Cape Breton South in what he said about the value and importance of the citizens of Atlantic Canada. I agree with the views he expressed as to the types of development which might be pursued by this board which has been altered, enlarged and established, or re-established by the present government. I was interested in the remarks of the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Cashin) who appeared to be amused at some of the observations which are being made. I believe he expressed the notion that today's discussion of the shortcomings of 22 years of Liberal

[Mr. MacInnis.]