

### *Government Orders*

field of agriculture, as has been presently done by the industrial development division of the Cape Breton Development Corporation?

The response of the government House leader in the Senate was:

Yes, honourable senators, those are valid examples of activities in which Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation—

—as my colleague from Cape Breton Highlands—Canso will want to note—

—as a continuation of IDD, could continue to be engaged and in which ACOA, generally speaking, is not engaged. Again, in answer to questions from our colleague, Senator Graham, I did discuss the quite worth-while activities of ACOA in encouraging economic activities and enterprises that are related to agriculture and fisheries. However, that is not what the honourable senator is asking. The short answer to his question is yes.

Senator Murray on June 14, 1988, page 3655, goes on to say:

Honourable senators, as I have stated previously, the generality of the case with regard to Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation is that ECBC will not be prevented from doing anything that the industrial development division of Devco is now doing.

Bill C-103 created ACOA and it created Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation in the words of the government House leader in the other place to do the duties of the industrial development division of what we now know as Devco.

That was back then. That is what they said in 1988. Senator Murray is on the record as saying the following. This is from page 3656 of the Senate debates of June 14, 1988:

Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation will be a Crown corporation. It has a mandate almost identical to that of the industrial development division of Devco. As a Crown corporation, it will have a board of directors which—and I make this as a general statement—will have the same mandate and powers in respect to ECBC as the board of directors of Devco has in respect of the IDD.

I put all of this on the record to show and to underline for those in the Chamber and those who may be viewing our proceedings the ultimate in hypocrisy of a government. It gutted the industrial development division of Devco and in its place it put the Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation, which was to assume its responsibilities. However, it has now come to Parliament to end Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation.

In the debate which went on in this House those in opposition were criticized because we as a national party

opposed the ACOA bill. The reason that we opposed the ACOA bill is that the Government of Canada was attempting to utilize it as a panacea for economic development in Atlantic Canada, to which we would not subscribe. In fact, we were the only national party to oppose that piece of legislation.

The Tory members opposite and members of the New Democratic Party supported ACOA. They supported the gutting of the industrial development division.

Today, we now see the results of that particular measure. We have a new bill before us which is gutting, terminating forever and ever, Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation which was to be the flagship of economic development on the island of Cape Breton.

We not only voted against Bill C-103 in this House, we had the other place forward amendments back to this Chamber. They happened to be amendments from our colleagues, our Liberal senators, which we supported, and which of course the New Democratic Party and the Tories opposite did not support.

So I want the record to be very clear that when it comes to economic development on the island of Cape Breton, we only have to look to the Tories and the NDP and examine the rhetoric. Examine the statements made in the press, but also look at the results and look at what is actually done.

This is a good example of a piece of legislation enacted some years ago which now in another form has come back before this institution and which we are going to do away with. That was the fear we anticipated back in 1987 and again in 1988 right until 1992.

Our worst dreams and our worst fears have now occurred. I am very sad that this has occurred. The reason I am sad is that people in my district in Nova Scotia believed Senator Murray when he said in the upper chamber, and these are his words: "These, honourable senators, are nation-building measures. Bill C-103, an act to increase opportunity for economic development in Atlantic Canada, to establish the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation." It is a nation-building measure. That is what he said on May 18, 1988 on page 3431 of Senate *Hansard*.