

*National Economic Development Board*

clined and not increased, it is another misrepresentation of facts, as they are. To say that the Conservative government did nothing, is another attempt to mislead the people.

Those men in the opposition should state facts as they are and ask the people to decide if they would be better able to improve Canada's position, rather than deny what has been done.

Their behaviour may hardly be considered as honorable political behaviour.

Mr. Speaker, I think we, who are responsible for the public weal, should unanimously join those who are trying to set up this national economic development board, for, in this way, we shall accomplish a necessary task in the best interests of the Canadian people.

In addition, I feel that the members of the national economic development board would be well advised to study closely what has been done in this field in foreign countries.

*(Text):*

I close my remarks by suggesting that the men who staff it, the men who will form part of this national development economic bureau, would do well to study what has been done by other nations which have adopted similar formulae and which have achieved success because of this formula. Recently I was reading from an interesting book written by the minister of economics in the West German government, Dr. Ludwig Erhard, in which the author explains the planning which was carried out and eventually realized in West Germany immediately after the disastrous days of world war II. Dr. Erhard explains in detail how the best brains of the German nation were grouped together to consider the question of rebuilding and eventual recovery, how a definite plan was established by these people and submitted to the German government for action. He explains that it was because of this planning which took place between the forces of free enterprise on the one hand and of government on the other that West Germany was privileged to know such a rapid reconstruction as took place in that nation.

When France found herself in a chaotic state prior to the advent, once again, of General de Gaulle to the helm of that state, bold remedies were necessary. Economic planning was instituted by this great man, whom I salute tonight. One of his first announcements after he took power was that he would recruit the best brains of France—this country which has produced so many magnificent brains—so that they might get

[Mr. Seigny.]

together and immediately submit a plan which would lead to the economic reconstruction of the country. Those days were not so long ago. Now, in the short space of four years, we see France occupying a position of primary importance among the nations of the world. Those who have travelled to France recently will have seen with their own eyes a prosperity the like of which was not known in that country even prior to the second world war. They will have seen new industries being built and new markets being found for the products of those industries; they will have seen a new life, a new ambition among the French people. These magnificent results are the fruit of this planning which was carried on by the men of free enterprise on the one hand and the men of the French government, under the inspired leadership of General de Gaulle, on the other.

Consider Japan, in the Far East, a nation which was an enemy of ours until a few years ago and which today has become one of our friends. What do we see? We see a booming economy which, once again, is the result of intelligent planning between free enterprise and the forces of the state. This is the way in which planning must be performed. We must at all costs avoid the pitfall of allowing one group to dominate the other. The state must not be allowed to get the upper hand over forces of free enterprise, neither must the forces of free enterprise be allowed to dominate the state. It must be a partnership. It must be an effort on the part of all the free men of this nation who by uniting and working together in a climate of mutual understanding and respect, will succeed in continuing the magnificent progress which has been achieved because of the efforts of this Conservative government, efforts which have led to the statement that Canada has experienced its best business year since 1956. We must not rest on our laurels. We must march forward and serve the Canadian people as it is our duty to do, and this can best be done by unanimously approving this national economic development board which will mark a new step in the progress of our nation.

**Mr. John R. Matheson (Leeds):** Mr. Speaker, we have listened tonight to the Associate Minister of National Defence (Mr. Seigny) telling us in very glowing and rhetorical terms of the great achievements of the present administration. The conclusion would appear to be that in 1962 we seem to have reached or very slightly exceeded the production of 1956. We on this side believe this is far short of an accomplishment. Earlier we heard the Minister of Northern Affairs and National