

Canadian National Railways

been said and permitted. I am relating my remarks directly to the broad subject of the co-ordination with investment of development of this kind and it is on that basis I am making these remarks.

Mr. Lesage: Mr. Chairman,—

Mr. Drew: Mr. Chairman, a question has been raised and unless you state that this is not in order I intend to proceed without interruption from the minister, who would be better in his seat.

Mr. Lesage: In speaking to the point of order, Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that I can ask the Chair for a decision. The Leader of the Opposition has just admitted that he intends to discuss the broad subject of United States investment in Canada and I believe, sir, that this is out of order. I respectfully submit that this is out of order.

The Deputy Chairman: In my short experience with other railway branch line bills that we have had before this house there has been considerable discussion of the financial and other arrangements which preceded the necessity for the construction of a branch line. I do not think one can rule out of order the circumstances which make it necessary for the government to bring in a bill providing for the construction of a branch line.

On the other side of the question, there is a responsibility on the Chair to intervene at that time when the discussion goes beyond what the chairman of the moment regards as a fair discussion of the situation leading to the necessity of introducing the bill.

It is my intention to permit the Leader of the Opposition to proceed, but I know he will agree with me when I say that his remarks dealing with the financial and other matters preceding the necessity for this bill must, of course, be related to the circumstances which lead to the bringing in of the bill, and should not go beyond that.

Mr. Drew: I would, of course, agree with that, Mr. Chairman, and I would emphasize that point. What I am seeking to do at the moment is to indicate that one of the reasons this legislation should be welcome is the fact that what we now have before us is the natural result of the interplay of financial and material forces to the advantage of a part of Canada which is entitled to every consideration as one of those provinces which originally came into confederation with the expectation that their advancement would be a primary concern of the government of Canada.

I was referring to certain remarks that were made yesterday by a prominent Canadian during which the emotional statement

was made that someone, presumably from the United States, had said to him that if their money was not wanted they could give it back. I doubt very much if there is a single hon. member of this house who believes that any such statement was made. It was just an illustration used by the prominent Canadian in question with a certain recklessness that is characteristic of him. But in any event that statement has no relationship to the problem—

Mr. Lesage: To New Brunswick.

Mr. Drew: That statement has no relationship to the need for the development of resources in this country. I point out that it simply indicates the emotional background of some of the statements that are made and possibly the emotional background of some of the interruptions now being made by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

Mr. Lesage: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order—and this is not an emotional point of order—I believe the last remarks of the Leader of the Opposition have proved that my point of order is well taken.

Mr. Drew: I shall be very happy if the minister gets the comfort of the self-satisfaction he has been able to establish, but I am quite sure that he is no nearer to a point of order than he was in the first instance.

What has happened here should encourage those in other parts of New Brunswick, of Nova Scotia, of Prince Edward Island and of Newfoundland to seek financial support for the development of their resources of all kinds which will produce positive results similar to those embraced in the motion now before us. I am sure it is appropriate that on this occasion I should mention the fact that the Atlantic provinces are being very well served at this time by a comparatively new organization known as the Atlantic provinces economic council. I understand that the name chosen by this council draws a distinction which has been established in the minds of the provinces on the Atlantic between the three provinces historically known as the maritime provinces and the province of Newfoundland which has joined us as part of Canada in more recent years.

The Atlantic provinces economic council has as its stated purpose three main functions: first, to undertake a survey of the factors affecting the economic development of the region; second, to develop united action on matters of common concern; and third, to co-ordinate the efforts of all those interested in the welfare, economic and social, of the Atlantic provinces. I mention these objectives because they are objectives to which