

The Address—Mr. Stewart

let us present a united front to the world, let us show we are Canadians and are proud of our country.

We have heard a lot of criticism during this debate. We have had some criticism from hon. members representing my province. Tonight I should like to examine the record to find out where those great exponents of maritime rights and union were in all the years prior to 1957. It seems to me that, like Saul, they saw the light in 1957, and not before. I am a New Brunswicker. I have lived all my life there and I believe I know as well as anyone else the problems and difficulties of that province. I have seen its economy change from what was basically agriculture to being more or less dependant on manufacturing, and I say that this government has done more for the province of New Brunswick since 1957 than was done in all the years prior to that date.

The hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Robichaud) a New Brunswicker like myself, stands up in this house and, to hear him, one would think that all the ills and woes of New Brunswick started when the Conservative party assumed office in 1957. If he has the answers, if his party has the answers then let us examine the record and we shall find some of the answers to capital assistance, to project development, to the assistance that has been given by this government to my province. I am sorry the hon. member is not in his seat as I would like to refer him back to 1951 when the Liberal premier of New Brunswick came to the Liberal administration in Ottawa, that benevolent Liberal administration the remnants of which now sit in those four seats in front.

The premier came to Ottawa seeking assistance for the building of the Cross Point bridge. What did he get? He got the answers, and the answers were consistent. I quote what that Liberal premier of New Brunswick said when he got back to his own province, and this is from the official report of that year:

The attitude of the dominion government is only understandable as a simple manoeuvre to avoid responsibility by 'passing the buck'. It admitted its full responsibility in 1945 in language so plain that he who runs may read.

Again, further on in that report he said:

It seems strange that Ottawa can spend millions upon millions of dollars out of the federal treasury in other parts of Canada and in the next breath refuse to honour its constitutional responsibilities on this bridge project about which there can be no question where probably about \$2 million are involved.

Contrast that with what the present administration did. In 1957 negotiations were started between the province of New Brunswick, the province of Quebec and the federal government, with the result that we now

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have the Campbellton-Cross Point bridge which means so much to the people of northern New Brunswick. Did the hon. member for Gloucester, that self-appointed New Brunswick and maritime champion, stand up in this house and ask that all assistance be given to this development in the province of New Brunswick?

Now I move on to other items. When the province of New Brunswick came to this house for assistance in the development of Beechwood they received the same answer from the Liberal government, a consistent answer throughout the years. The answer was no. We were told by the Right Hon. C. D. Howe that as we had no industries in New Brunswick we had no need for power. When we asked for industries during the war years we were told that we had no power to support industries. Regardless of what angle was discussed, the answer was no.

In world war I, under Sir Robert Borden the province of New Brunswick had two munitions plants. In world war II not one single industry was established in the province of New Brunswick. Did the Liberal members of this House of Commons get up and beseech the government of that day to render capital assistance to the province of New Brunswick or to any of the maritime provinces? The Liberal administration never heard of the Atlantic provinces adjustment grants; they never heard of assistance in the development of hydro and thermal power; they never heard of a winter works program, which this year will cause nearly \$600,000 to be spent in the province of New Brunswick by the federal government on payroll contributions. Prior to 1957, we never heard of anyone getting up and asking that some of the inequities in the province of New Brunswick be righted.

The hon. member for Gloucester (Mr. Robichaud) never beseeched the government to give some assistance to Beechwood. My predecessor in the house said that Beechwood was not feasible from an engineering standpoint. He did not support the request of the province of New Brunswick.

What happened when this government came into power? Sufficient money was made available at a low rate of interest to develop Beechwood. We got results from this government. All we got from the Right Hon. C. D. Howe was a speech, which certainly did not contribute to the building of Beechwood.

My hon. friend from Gloucester and his cohorts, in those years after world war II when the economy of the province was declining, like Nero sat here and fiddled while