

Atlantic Development Board Act

this debate, or is he going to be called to order on the question before the house?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Batten): Order. I would hope that the hon. member from Cape Breton South (Mr. MacInnis) would confine himself as closely as possible to the bill on the setting up of the Atlantic development board.

Mr. MacInnis: I accept your ruling Mr. Speaker, it gives me an opportunity to raise a point that I think the Chair should examine quite closely. An occasion arose in the house the other day when I asked a very specific question concerning a problem in the mines in my own area. I was asked by the Chair to repeat that question and, follow with a supplementary question, because a sign or something was given in the house and my question was declared to be out of order because the original question was not in order.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. MacInnis: Every time a member of the opposition rises on a point of order, it should be recognized. This type of signal passing must be stopped. The hon. member representing Halifax, and the minister piloting this legislation through the house who is also representing his constituency, said that the previous government had done nothing for the Atlantic areas. I would ask them to consider a few of the proposals put forward by the previous government, which were supported by them in this house, in assisting the Atlantic area. There are, of course, the coal subventions, which proved very beneficial to the people of the area and met the desires and representations which had come from the United mine workers in my area. There is the Beechwood project, a \$29½ million project that assisted the province of New Brunswick. There is the Atlantic power development program and the interprovincial grid. I might say here, Mr. Speaker, that over a year ago this interprovincial grid had realized the participating provinces over \$60 million in savings. These are not my words; they are the words of Arthur Johnson, former president of APEC and now a deputy minister in the government of Mr. Smallwood.

Mr. Regan: Mr. Speaker, will the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. MacInnis: I will tell the hon. member representing Halifax what he told me this afternoon: When I have finished. They said nothing was done by the previous government to assist the Atlantic provinces. What about the Volvo Corporation which was recently established, at least temporarily, in

Halifax? This is the only example of federal-provincial co-operation of this kind in our country. There are further examples, such as the assistance given to coal companies to extend the operation of those collieries which were about to be closed. Here I do not hesitate to mention the fact that we had mine closures under the previous government. But I do bring to the attention of hon. members opposite that at least that government in its assistance went a great deal further and accomplished a great deal more than was the case between 1946 and 1956 when hon. members opposite were on the treasury benches. If the minister from Gloucester and the minister who represents Bonavista-Twillin-gate want to take exception to those remarks, I can put them on the record again to put this matter straight.

In assisting in this way the government has undertaken to re-establish Fortress Louisburg, which in itself has proven to be a very desirable and worth-while project in our part of the country. I might say also that the previous government was willing to co-operate with the provincial government in a forestry program which provided work for displaced miners. This co-operation was forthcoming without any delay. I notice that one of the projects the executive of the united mine workers have put before this government seeks the same type of co-operation.

The talk about delay. Where is the delay? Where is the action promised for the miners in Cape Breton who were taken care of in this forestry program with the co-operation of the previous federal and provincial governments? They were being looked after before, and they are still seeking this type of assistance from the present government.

An hon. member has made a remark, Mr. Speaker. I would like him to rise and record that question, if he would. I will give him a chance to get to his feet and ask that question, if he wishes to do so. I would like to see who asked that question so we can have it on the record.

Mr. Regan: Mr. Speaker, my question was—

Mr. MacInnis: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, before the hon. member goes any further, that is not the member who made the remark.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Has the hon. gentleman completed his remarks? May I suggest to the hon. member that he continue with his remarks, and I am sure there will be no interruption.

Mr. MacInnis: There are those interruptions which I do welcome; that was one of them. In respect to the board itself, \$100 million has been made available. I am very