

Government Organization

AFTER RECESS

The committee resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. MacEwan: Mr. Chairman, as the saying goes, I had a go at this bill before dinner. I have now replenished myself with a good dinner but I do not intend to go on at great length. In any event, I believe I have only about ten minutes left to speak on the bill.

Just before six o'clock I was putting some questions to the minister. One thing discussed by earlier speakers this afternoon as the matter of estimates for this new department. In the days of the A.D.B., ARDA and AIDA, the normal estimates included amounts which were spent under these programs. There were amounts included in the estimates of the Department of Transport, the Department of Public Works and so on, for projects necessary in the Atlantic area, particularly public works such as wharves and breakwaters.

What I am wondering is whether under the new set up, when this bill is passed as it will be in due course, amounts will still be included in the estimates of the Department of Public Works for wharves, breakwaters and so on, and in the estimates of other departments, as well as additional estimates for this new department? In other words, I hope that all the amounts of money proposed for the Atlantic area will not be included in one basket in the estimates for this new department. I doubt if this will be the case, but it is something that occurred to me when reading the terms of the bill.

Another matter I wish to mention is the power given to the minister under clause 24 which reads:

The Governor in Council may, by order, designate as a special area, for the period set out in the order, any area in Canada that is determined to require, by reason of the exceptional inadequacy of opportunities for productive employment of the people of that area or of the region of which that area is a part, special measures to facilitate economic expansion and social adjustment.

Those powers are very wide. They have been likened to the powers given to a former Liberal cabinet minister now long gone, the Right Hon. C. D. Howe. In this connection I would like to read from an article in the Halifax *Chronicle-Herald*. I do not have the date of the issue but it was not long ago. It is headed, "Powerful Echo of the Liberals' Past." Perhaps the minister has seen it, but if not he may be interested in it. It reads in part:

A study of the legislation now before parliament to create a new department of regional economic expansion stirs memories of the powerful wartime

[Mr. MacEwan.]

and post-war economic reign of C. D. Howe, who practically wrote his own ticket in government and became known as "minister of everything."

The former French Canadian labour union boss, Jean Marchand, who will head the department, perhaps is not given, under the bill, as broad a field for using a free industrial development rein as Mr. Howe had. But he isn't far behind. Certainly, there has been no ordinary minister in the interim who has been assigned a similar measure of sweeping authority in the economic arena.

Then the article refers to the Deputy Minister, Mr. Kent. I hope that the minister will use these powers properly. If I may put it kindly, perhaps we now have a "Pocket Rocket" C. D. Howe in this new Liberal cabinet. I have a little concern with this clause in the bill, and I repeat that I hope the minister will use these powers properly.

Earlier this afternoon the suggestion was made that with these powers a certain part of the country might be favoured over another part. However, I think the minister is a reasonable man. I have seen and heard him since he came into parliament, and I would be willing to put my money on him until something else is proven. As I say, we will keep in mind that he is a "Pocket Rocket" C. D. Howe, and we hope that he will not say, for instance, "what's a million?"

Mr. Breau: What's the picture the hon. member has in his hand?

Mr. MacEwan: It is a picture of Mr. Trudeau which appeared in the *Atlantic Advocate*, and I shall have something to say about it later. It was the issue of March, 1969. I told the hon. member about it when we were in the elevator coming over from suburbia in the West Block, and he thought it was great. I do not quite admit that.

Mr. Mongrain: You should send us copies of that.

Mr. MacEwan: You should get your own. It comes free to all Tory members anyway.

Now, I wish to deal with a matter concerning my constituency. It is something I took up with the minister by way of letter. It is the matter of the MacBean mine in my constituency, which is known to the Leader of the Opposition and is now known to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. When the Devco Corporation was established, this mine was not included under the provisions of that legislation, although we on this side of the chamber pushed for that. The hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys, and my friend to my right, the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond, pressed to get this mine