

*National Economic Development Board*

not only completely wrecked, in my opinion, the aeronautical industry in this country but threw away millions of dollars of investment that this country and its citizens had made in developing perhaps some of the finest technical brains in the world in this field, who have now all emigrated to the United States.

If one looks over the account, he will recall the bungling of the Avro Arrow, the stupidity of the Coyne affair and the international disrepute brought on Canada by the leader of the Conservative party when he went over to London and tried to blackmail Britain into staying out of the common market. Perhaps account should be taken of how the Prime Minister a few years ago talked about a 15 per cent diversion of trade to Britain. How colourful that was, and how it appealed to the nationalistic sense of the Canadian people and their love of the mother country. Then Britain called this bluff and said: "Put up or shut up", and we did not hear another word. When one considers this sorry record over the last three or four years I do not think the parliamentary secretary can say that we are running the country down. I think the people of Canada know who has run this country down.

The previous speaker seemed to be quite clear as to what the group in the far corner meant by planning—regimentation and so on. But he never said what he himself meant by this bill. If it does not mean planning, what else does it mean? If it does not mean planning, it is just a paper facade put up to make the government look good. What is it? Is it something dreamed up by John Fisher or some advertising executive in the Conservative party to delude the Canadian people once again into thinking the government is going to do something? When one looks at this bill and examines it, he is frightened that it may be just another attempt by the government to delude the Canadian people—to raise their hopes and make them think the government is going to take some definite action when, in reality, those hopes are going to be dashed as they realize that this board, after all, is nothing more than a branch of the Department of Finance without any effective power to recommend a long range solution to the problems which face this country today. If that happens, this will be the last occasion upon which such a trick will be perpetrated upon the Canadian people.

If this is not just window dressing, if this is not just another catchy phrase to form the basis of another clouded vision, to foster a progressive image with no real substance, it will certainly not succeed. But if it is an honest and sincere attempt on the part of the government to provide Canada with the

foundation for long range policies, to provide Canada with a social and economic purpose and to rid this country of the plague of unemployment; if it is truly meant to foster among all Canadians a wholesome pride in their country and in the future of their country then let the government show it through the substance of their bill and by detailed provisions in the bill itself with respect to the clause setting out the duties of the board. Let them show that they mean this board to have independence—that they mean to bring in the finest brains of the country to raise this country out of the doldrums of unemployment and international disrepute.

If, and only if, the bill contains more adequate provision in this connection can the well-founded suspicions of this party and of all Canadians be set at ease to some extent. I suggest that these suspicions are, indeed, well founded if one considers the derision which was heaped on the party to which I belong when my hon. friend from Essex East (Mr. Martin) proposed measures similar to this years ago. I suggest those suspicions are well founded when we recall that any such proposals coming from this, or any other party were scorned by hon. members opposite as an attempt to seize more power for a bureaucracy that would trample the rights of the people. Now we see the government coming up with yet another board—a board which is apparently going to do no planning at all, if we can rely on what the hon. parliamentary secretary told us this evening; is it any wonder that the Canadian people are so suspicious when the government, now, has decided to adopt such measures itself?

The government must feel, in terms of the unemployment which now prevails in this country, that this board is going to be the answer. Well, if this board fails, if it is just another piece of window dressing, just another gimmick, I am afraid this is going to be one thing which the people of Canada will not forget. They will not allow themselves to be deluded again. They were told about "the vision of the north" and all that nonsense. They were told that this government would get rid of unemployment, only to find that this was another catchy gimmick with no meaning whatsoever.

Another point which is disturbing to many is the similarity of phraseology between the words used by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Nowlan) when he introduced this bill and what was said by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Hees) when he introduced the bill setting up the national productivity council some two years ago. This makes me suspect that this is to be just another board, perhaps one which overlaps the functions of the national productivity council just at