

There is even one comment here that one might excuse as a political comment. It is made by the present senior member for Halifax, (Mr. Lloyd).

Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton): The white haired one.

Mr. Crouse: This is what he said:

"In fact", said Mayor Lloyd "there was new construction all around the city, with indications of more and more to come—new apartments, hospitals, office blocks, government buildings, etc". This was the most tangible evidence of the sweeping private and public enterprise redevelopment taking place now.

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

Mr. Crouse: Certainly.

Mr. Regan: Is he aware that this growth which occurred in the Halifax area during the past year was primarily due to the efforts of the other hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Lloyd), the mayor of the city of Halifax, his council and indeed the municipal authorities of Dartmouth, and Industrial Estates, which is an independent, non-political, crown corporation in the province of Nova Scotia?

Mr. Crouse: I will not go into that matter, Mr. Speaker, because it is not part of my speech; but the mayor of Halifax gives full credit to the federal grants in this article. Those federal grants were awarded to the Atlantic provinces by the Conservative government.

Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton): You had better get together with the other member for Halifax.

Mr. Crouse: We on this side of the house, especially the members from the Atlantic provinces cannot help being concerned over some of the aspects of this bill. After all, the Atlantic development board is a new board and, as introduced in this house only last December 4, 1962 by the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton (Mr. Flemming), was a creation of the Progressive Conservative government when it was in office. This board was in keeping with our program of instilling confidence in the Atlantic provinces, a program that started at that famous meeting in Moncton in the spring of 1957, when the Conservative candidates for the Atlantic provinces met and drew up the Atlantic resolutions. When selecting the membership of the development board, due consideration was given to each Atlantic province, and the men appointed, together with the chairman, Brigadier Michael Wardell, are men of integrity who have made outstanding contributions to the economy of the Atlantic provinces. They are men who are familiar with our

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problems, and in my opinion the board as presently constituted was quite capable of analysing and assessing the needs of our area.

The present government has condemned the original board before it has had a chance to function. There is an old saying, I believe, by Abraham Lincoln, that you cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. That is exactly what this government is doing. These men have already been appointed; they have already gained knowledge of our province, and if we allow this measure to pass we will only weaken the present board.

The board as constituted by the Conservative government has not had a fair trial. This action on the part of the present government is similar to the lawless rule of pirate days, when the victim walked the plank and the merits of his case were discussed at a later time. How did the present administration know that the board as presently constituted would not work? When I asked the Secretary of State (Mr. Pickersgill) whether this was to be the action taken with all boards, he replied no, apparently this action is to be taken only with this board. How did they know it would not work. There is no concrete answer. The allocation of a fund of \$100 million is also in question. In the opinion of many Atlantic province members in the house, it is insufficient to cover this huge area. When the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Robichaud) spoke on the resolution to set up the original board he asked if he was correct in assuming the board would channel \$1 billion into the region in the next ten years. This, I submit, would be a much more realistic figure. If we look at the bill, we see that clause 6 provides for a new section, section 16 (4) as follows:

The total of all amounts that may be paid by the Minister of Finance to the board under subsection (1) and credited to the Atlantic development fund is one hundred million dollars.

Is this double talk, or is that the total amount which will be paid to our area through this board between the present date and the death of the board? As hon. members know, it was our intention to back up the recommendations of this board in connection with all suitable projects with the vast resources of the federal government. By making the partisan changes proposed in this bill, by killing the original measure on January 24, 1969, the present administration is not building up the confidence in this board required by the investing public who, in the final analysis, must help develop new secondary industries in the Atlantic provinces.

I think it was fitting that the present Minister of Finance (Mr. Gordon) should have introduced this bill at the resolution