

Those are but two individuals who see many difficulties with the new organization of DEVCO. Yet the Government has intentionally tried to portray the splitting of this Bill as endangering money flowing to ACOA. If there was ever an untruthful portrayal of the facts, it is just that. No Member of Parliament, particularly on the government side, can say that splitting this Bill in any way delays or stops money going to ACOA. Members of the Government do not have to accept my word for that. They should accept the word of their own appointed Deputy Minister, Mr. McPhail. He said in committee that money for ACOA comes from the Estimates. Therefore, when the Minister of State for Tourism tries to portray the Opposition as holding up money for ACOA, I say, with great respect, that this completely and utterly false.

Senator Stewart from Antigonish-Guysborough asked a question of Mr. McPhail in the committee on June 23, 1988. He said:

Am I correct that you said that you were operating on the basis of the appropriation made for your predecessor organization for the fiscal year 1988-89?

MR. MCPHAIL: No, Sir. There is in the Estimates a separate provision for the agency.

On that same day Senator MacEachen put this question to Mr. McPhail:

Yes, and your money comes from the Estimates, not this Bill?

MR. MCPHAIL: Yes.

No more smoke-screens. No more false accusations by government Members. No more jumping in bed with the Government by the NDP on this matter.

Mr. Grisé: You don't jump in bed with them, you live there with them.

Mr. Dingwall: Their allegations are utterly false and they know that.

We have heard from Ministers of the Crown, but only one or two Members opposite, about the great things they have done for Cape Breton. They ought to be ashamed, utterly ashamed. It took them four years to conceive a legislative package to institute ACOA. The Prime Minister said in 1984: "Jobs, jobs, jobs". The people in my riding say, "Bull" you know what.

In 1984, when we were in power, the Industrial Development Division received \$13.6 million. The Government reduced that to \$10.6 million by 1988-89. That is a loss of \$12.7 million since the Tories came to power. Don't tell me and my constituents, who are far more intelligent than Members opposite, that the Government has been treating them with equality and generosity. The facts are completely and utterly the opposite. Just the other day a fish plant closed in Glace Bay, throwing in excess of 300 women out of work, and the response of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) was to bob and weave, weave and bob, not reply to correspondence and not meet with the people concerned.

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When we stand in this Chamber as Members from Cape Breton and ask the Government to split a Bill, which it should do based both on precedent and substance, we do it because we speak not only from the heart but from the head. It is clear to each and every living soul on the Island of Cape Breton that this is an affront to the independence DEVCO has enjoyed for a considerable period of time. It is an affront to regional economic development in Cape Breton.

I can say in conclusion only that government Members who support the raping of DEVCO as we now know it, and members of the NDP who support that attack, will answer for it in a general election, and when we are elected we will restore the original mandate to the corporation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions and comments.

Mr. Harris: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member just told us that the NDP wished to destroy the Industrial Development Division of Devco. No one from his Party was in Port Hawkesbury when we first heard about the major concerns with that division. It was an NDP member, myself, who moved the motions in committee to delete that part of the Act dealing with the destruction of the division. We also spoke against it in this House. Therefore, when the Hon. Member says what he says, he is creating a false impression in the minds of the voters of Cape Breton and Members of this House.

What I ask him to tell us is whether or not he supports and is prepared to stand up for the privileges of this House as against those of the Senate.

Mr. Dingwall: Mr. Speaker, I am in your hands, but I always thought it was unparliamentary to comment on whether Members attend certain functions of a legislative nature. However, if the Hon. Member wishes to raise that concern perhaps we could refer to other situations where he and his Party have not particularly participated in debate on initiatives which have been taken on Cape Breton Island. I could recite for him a litany of those initiatives.

With regard to the substantive question, the motion before us, what he is saying to the coal miners of Cape Breton is that this is the first stage of the Tory Government's move to privatization of DEVCO through which we will see the elimination of the coal industry in Nova Scotia. He is saying that he supports that action by saying we will not split this legislation.

May I call it one o'clock?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: It being one o'clock p.m., I do now leave the chair until two o'clock p.m. this day.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.