

*Atlantic Development Board Act*

was pleased that the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton took the view that it was a reasonable sum at the present time having regard to all the circumstances. He has had a lot of experience and it comforts me to feel that on this particular measure we are in agreement.

I wish in closing to repeat that when this fund, which is not yet all committed though about \$90 million is and which is to be replenished by a further \$50 million if parliament sees fit to allow it, needs further strengthening, then if the present government is here and if I am the minister responsible for the board, as I hope to be, I shall not hesitate to come back to parliament and ask for more provided I believe the board is doing a good job and getting results. If results are not being achieved it would, of course, be irresponsible to do so. But I am confident they will be, and I have no doubt that the government of the day, whatever government it may be—I am fairly sure it will be a Liberal government—will be back with a similar measure before long because we shall find things to do with this money which will contribute to the growth and development of the whole Atlantic region and, in doing so, to the growth and development of the whole of Canada including the Lake St. John area.

Motion agreed to, bill read the second time and the house went into committee thereon, Mr. Rinfret in the chair.

On clause 1—

**Mr. Douglas:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister of Transport took some exception to my statement that I did not think there was adequate co-ordination between the Atlantic Development Board and the Department of Industry. Then he proceeded to make a speech which completely proved my statement. He said the two organizations had different purposes. Surely this proves a lack of co-ordination.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Would the hon. gentleman permit a question? How can you co-ordinate two things which have the same purpose?

**Mr. Douglas:** They are parallel but not different purposes. The minister laughs.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** I did not laugh.

**Mr. Douglas:** The chaotic situation which now exists is the result of the complete refusal of the government to face facts. The minister's statement that the Department of Industry and the Atlantic Development Board have different purposes explains fully the

situation in the maritime provinces today. These organizations have parallel purposes. One is concerned with industrial development for Canada as a whole and the other is concerned with the same thing on a more intensive basis in a specific region.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** It is not exactly the same thing at all.

**Mr. Douglas:** Well, they ought to be doing the same thing.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Does the hon. gentleman not recognize a clear distinction between what the Atlantic Development Board is doing in providing general support for the Atlantic economy and the specific purpose of the area development agency for designated areas, which is to provide grants to specific industries? It is true these activities have to be co-ordinated closely but they are quite distinct.

**Mr. Douglas:** Surely it must be apparent to the minister that the objective of both the department and the board is the economic growth of the area, the promotion of industry and the providing of employment. The board does it by means of grants and loans to specified industries. The Department of Industry has charge of the whole area of industrial promotion. Here is a department setting up criteria for designated areas which run absolutely counter to the policies established by the board.

The minister says the standards established for designated areas must be uniform across Canada. The board, on the other hand, was set up because the government was convinced this was a particular region which needed special help. Surely a department interested in promoting industry all across Canada has to take account of the fact that this is a region which the government has recognized as being one in need of special consideration. If it were not, the board would never have been set up to promote industrial development there.

The fact is the minister is trying to defend a formula in the Department of Industry which is completely unrealistic and runs at cross-purposes to the function of the board. The board was set up by parliament to look upon the Atlantic provinces as being a region with special problems. You cannot deal with these problems by cutting up the Atlantic provinces into areas, excluding some of their principal cities and proceeding on a piecemeal basis.