

National Economic Development Board

hope to have educational facilities extended to every Canadian regardless of where he or she is resident. These are tangible results of the program, Mr. Speaker.

I had intended to go on to discuss our plans for power development. We launched the Atlantic Provinces Power Development Act in 1958 to encourage the expansion of power resources in the Atlantic provinces in the interests of industrial development. Up to the present time under this act it is estimated that there has been a saving of \$26 million, made possible by the first power grid system ever to be established in Canada. Savings due to the sharing of reserves and postponement of construction in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have been estimated by competent engineers to amount to \$26 million. Over the next 20 years, the present facilities and proposed power developments in both provinces will tend to reduce power costs from an average of ten mills to something like seven mills at today's costs. Based on this experience, we are now moving forward to consider the feasibility of a national power grid which would make it possible to exploit the riches of our power resources, particularly in the northern parts of Canada.

To sum up, this act then is another step forward. This is not something which has suddenly been conceived as a solution to all our problems. The proposal to establish this board is part of a continuous and developing program which was launched by this government as soon as it was given a mandate by the people. It is the response of this government to the almost revolutionary changes which have been taking place in Canada as well as in other parts of the world since the end of the second world war. We rested on our laurels until the middle of the last decade—the decade of the fifties. There was very little attempt to bring in new policies to meet the changing situation.

In accordance with the traditional philosophy of the Conservative party we are bringing about changes on the basis of experience rather than expediency. The hon. member for York South criticizes the type of planning proposed as being inadequate. It was for that reason I mentioned in my opening remarks that we do not regard this as a solution to all the problems of this nation. Change is a continuing process. Governments and people must constantly adjust to the pressures of change. The only people who do not change are those who hold doctrinaire positions and who believe that once you have adopted a particular doctrine all your difficulties are solved. Once that policy has been

adopted it has to be adhered to rigidly, whatever the consequences, because there is nowhere else to go. It is easy to simplify the problems which face Canada at the present time. The only simplicity which could resolve the problems which face Canada and the world today is the simplicity of monolithic unity and power and certainly we do not think in those terms in Canada.

My friends in the Liberal party advanced a slogan during the last campaign which they thought would appeal to the people of Canada. They said Canadians must take a stand for tomorrow. I should like to revise that slogan here tonight. I think the launching of this national economic development board justifies the alteration of that slogan. Tomorrow never comes. We believe we should be saying to the people of Canada: "Tomorrow must be faced today". That is just what we are doing in this legislation.

(Translation):

Mr. Gerard Legare (Rimouski): Mr. Speaker, the bill that comes back before the house today was studied for a few hours during the month of December. It is dated November 28, 1962, but the speech from the throne referred to it two months before that date.

I wonder whether the bill that I now have here is useful and necessary or if it is not. If it is, the government does not seem to consider it as very important, since it has been delaying its passing for four months.

In my opinion, a general election in the present circumstances would have a much better influence on our economy than the establishment of a new board.

If the houses had been dissolved after the debate on the speech from the throne and if an election had been ordered, we would now have a new government to manage the country, a government which would even have been in power for two months.

If our honourable friends opposite are so confident to have popular support, the support of the voters, I wonder why they always delay to go to the country, as the official opposition asks. Unfortunately, it is not so. We are still merely marking time, while our economy is stagnant and the number of unemployed is increasing by 100,000 every month.

After beating about the bush and hesitating for three long months, that is since the opening of this session, the government now submits a plan mentioned in the speech from