

*Atlantic Development Board*

governments is not the answer. I am quoting from the January issue this year of the *Atlantic Advocate*:

The Atlantic region has been a drag on the economy of Canada by being low in production and high in unemployment, twice as high as the rest of Canada in terms of unemployment as a percentage of the labour force.

The region has been aided and subsidized by an ever-increasing amount by the government of Canada, to enable its people just to live, to keep from starving. The region has cost Canada something between \$130 million and \$200 million a year in aids and subsidies to enable its people to survive. All of every payment is gone by the end of every year. Nothing is left. In the next year the aids are continued, and so on, *ad infinitum*.

Unfortunately, this is all too true of what has been the background results of events in the Atlantic area. It need not be so; it should not be so. The minister has mentioned that the Atlantic development board is to be concerned both in an active and a passive way. He said also that it is to be concerned with both the private and the public sectors of the economy. I would remind him, and I would remind the government to which he belongs, that as he contemplates the work of the Atlantic development board much of what he has been speaking about has already been done by APEC and by other agencies in that region. As it is described to be an arm of government I can see in it a board which could produce action and produce it quickly if instead of going through the same pattern which has been followed in the past number of years it could take the findings of those various organizations which already exist, bring them together and then, devise machinery which would facilitate the action which is obviously needed. This board could produce action and it could produce action very quickly. As I envisage it I can see that it could be capable of making the Atlantic area the emerging part of Canada.

We are wrong when we consider that any part of Canada is an entity in itself. It is only as we can see Canada as the great nation it is, when no part is separated from another part, that true development is possible. We talk about the possibility of maintaining an ice free river as far as Montreal for 12 months of the year and immediately we are concerned about what effect this might have upon the shipping facilities in Saint John or Halifax. We hear criticism of the Chignecto canal because, it is said, it would hurt harbour commerce in other parts of that area. It is well that we remember always: you cannot separate one part of the country from another. What is good for one will be good for the other. What is good for the Atlantic provinces will be good for Upper Canada, and what is good for Upper Canada will be good for western Canada. It is on this

basis that the board could produce the results we are thinking of, provided the government puts teeth into the thing. This is a matter on which we expect to have more to say as the debate goes on and about which we shall be in a position to say more when we are informed in greater detail, as I trust we shall be, about the functions of the board.

I say that the purpose of this board is not only one of correlation and bringing together. It must be a board capable of initiating action itself. The minister has told us there is no substitute for initiative and subsequent action. Referring briefly to the honourable gentleman's statement that the board is to be concerned with Atlantic development both with regard to public and private projects on this basis, I should like to draw the attention of the committee briefly to what I regard as the responsibility of government toward public and private projects. As far as I am concerned, both our older parties in Canada have been far too much concerned, through an urgency which can only be described as being expedient, with things which rightfully do not belong to the responsibility of government. The hon. member for Gloucester who spoke just before me mentioned that if we are to produce the action and the results which are expected, active participation in the supply of capital is necessary. Let us remember, however, that there are two basic kinds of capital as applied to what we are thinking of now. Private capital is the capital which industry and commerce need to build up the industry and commerce of the area where this capital is used. This capital should not come out of welfare handouts by governments but from the savings and investment of our own people.

I am positive that if we can operate universities and carry on as we have carried on in that area through the years the need of the Atlantic provinces at this time is not interference with private or commercial capital; what is needed is the setting of an atmosphere and a climate which would make the area fully receptive to commercial, productive capital. We hear a good deal of talk to the effect that only the United States or other countries outside Canada can supply the capital we need. That is simply not true. We have plenty of capital in Canada ready for use if only the climate and the conditions which would encourage Canadians to invest their capital were present. In this regard, if teeth are going to be put into this project, I believe it must be basically concerned not with the payment of more welfare nor with the supplying of private or productive capital which ought to come from the Canadian