

Atlantic Development Board Act

in the small areas they have at their disposal. Therefore I think we could do much better than we are doing under this legislation.

It appears to me that there is not the co-ordination there ought to be between the Atlantic Development Board and the rest of the federal government. I have reference particularly to the Department of Industry. Frankly, I do not know why this legislation does not come under the Department of Industry. Surely there ought to be the very closest integration between a body set up to promote economic and industrial development in the Atlantic provinces and the Department of Industry. It seems to me that this board might well be reporting to the Minister of Industry (Mr. Drury) and be responsible to him so that he can fit its programs in with the programs of his department.

A very good example of the cross-purposes which we find is in the matter of designated areas. From all I can gather the Atlantic Development Board has been waiting for a long time to have the Atlantic provinces in their entirety treated as a designated area. This makes sense. We cannot develop industries on a postage stamp basis. They have to be developed on a regional basis taking into consideration the various natural resources available, fuel, transportation, and markets both export and local.

It is only possible to plan economic development on a regional basis. Yet the Department of Industry proceeds in an outdated manner to select little postage stamp areas and designate them. In the Atlantic provinces it has excluded such cities as Halifax, Saint John, Dartmouth and Fredericton. There is such a thing as mutual attraction in industrial development. You cannot just take a local area, set it aside and say that is a designated area to which we want to attract industry. You have to start where there is some industry and where there is a reservoir of trained manpower and markets. Industry attracts industry; primary industries attract secondary industries and secondary industries attract tertiary industries. Therefore, to take cities out of an industrial development plan is to cut the heart out of any sensible industrial development program.

If the Atlantic Development Board were consulted by the Minister of Industry I feel certain they would be the first to recommend a complete overhaul of his system of designating areas for the purpose of industrial development. I really cannot understand why there has not been a better co-ordination. I

certainly think it is regrettable that there should be this complete contradiction with one board trying to treat four provinces as a region for industrial development and a department of government on the other hand cutting up the region into small areas and saying that some are designated and others are not. It does not make sense. When the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) is carrying on one of his periodic reorganizations of government structure I hope he will give some thought to working out a better co-ordination between the Department of Industry and the Atlantic Development Board.

• (4:00 p.m.)

In so far as this legislation will help the Atlantic provinces, which we feel sure it will, we give it our hearty support.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilles Grégoire (Lapointe): Mr. Speaker, we have under consideration a bill designed to provide assistance to the Atlantic provinces. First, I do wish to say that we are not opposed to that. However, I would like to take a few minutes today to say that the Atlantic provinces are not the only ones with areas of unemployment, with underdeveloped areas. The province of Quebec also has underdeveloped areas in need of assistance.

Therefore, I would simply say this to the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) and to the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson). Although we do not object to the principle of Bill No. C-213, we believe that the government should also give consideration to the other underdeveloped areas in this country, that is to those of Saguenay-Lake St. John, the Gaspé peninsula, Abitibi, the north shore, etc. Those are areas with tremendous needs, for which the government should make special efforts. Part of the people's taxes is used to assist the Atlantic provinces; yet, those taxes are collected in the country as a whole. We do not oppose this, because needs are becoming apparent in those four provinces, but I insist on the fact that there are areas in the province of Quebec also which are in need of assistance.

For a number of years, the western provinces obtained many things from the federal government, while the Atlantic provinces and Quebec were neglected. At other times, it is the province of Ontario which received a great deal of assistance. At that time, in the thirties, the western provinces, Quebec and the maritimes were forgotten. We believe that the province of Quebec should have its turn, since it has never come.