

As far as I am concerned, I consent to the honourable gentleman discussing the allied measure at this time.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: I think the honourable gentleman from Halifax (Hon. Mr. Isnor) should confine himself to the bill before the house.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: Mr. Speaker, in reply to the honourable leader opposite, I shall endeavour to deal only with two bills, namely bill 3 which has been passed, and the bill now before the house.

Hon. Mr. Haig: My honourable friend is still out of order in referring to a bill which this house has already passed. He had a right to speak to the measure when it was before the house on Saturday last, he did not do so. I am quite willing to consent to his proceeding under the circumstances, but I say that he is out of order in doing so.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: Mr. Speaker, as I said a moment ago, I am quite willing to admit that I am out of order in discussing a bill now before the other house, but I think that I have the right to refer to a measure which we have already passed.

Hon. Mr. Beaubien: Go ahead.

The Hon. the Acting Speaker: The honourable gentleman may refer to the fact that the bill contained certain provisions and that it was passed by the house; but beyond that he should not discuss the measure.

Hon. Mr. Robertson: Honourable senators, in fairness to the honourable gentleman from Halifax, I should point out that these three measures are closely integrated, and that during the rather rapid disposition of the legislation on Saturday last I suggested that, so far as I was concerned, I would not object to related matters being brought up for discussion later.

Hon. Mr. Beaubien: And the leader of the opposition did not object to that.

Hon. Mr. Quinn: Did not that suggestion apply only to the consideration of the bill in committee when the minister was present?

Hon. Mr. Isnor: I think I appreciate the feeling of the chamber, Mr. Speaker, and I will endeavour to confine my remarks to the bill before the house, notwithstanding my view regarding the proper procedure.

I have stated that I want to deal with section 3 of the bill, and in doing so I should like to point out to honourable senators that this measure and the two other bills referred to authorize huge expenditures which will, for the most part, be spent in the industrial centre of Canada. The large amounts involved prompt me to call the

attention of the leader of the government in this house to the desirability of an equitable distribution of the expanding industrial activities, so as to benefit the extreme east and west, and the Prairie Provinces.

Hon. Mr. Reid: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: The fact is that of Canada's population of 14 million odd 34 per cent is in Ontario and about 32 per cent in Quebec. I shall refer to this area containing approximately 66 per cent of our total population as the industrial centre of Canada. British Columbia has about 10 per cent of the total population, and the remaining 24 per cent is scattered throughout the rest of the country. In the light of these facts, honourable senators will realize why it is that I am concerned as to where this \$850 million will be spent.

Hon. Mr. Haig: Hear, hear.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: It must also be remembered that in the industrial centre, containing about 65 per cent of the population, there is a corresponding percentage of production and wages, for where you have production you are bound to have spending power. Thus it is that industrial production is centered in Ontario and Quebec, particularly within a radius of one hundred miles of Toronto and Montreal. The honourable leader of the government should bear these facts in mind, and impress upon the Minister of Trade and Commerce and the Minister of National Defence that when spending this vast amount of money through the Canadian Commercial Corporation—which is the purchasing branch of the Department of National Defence—they should give greater consideration to industries situated in the extreme East and West of Canada.

I should like to discuss for a moment the Dartmouth-Bedford Naval Magazine. I do not wish to relate to honourable senators what they already know about the Halifax explosion of 1917, which took 1,600 lives.

Hon. Mr. Quinn: And blinded 700 persons.

Hon. Mr. Isnor: Yes. And everyone knows about the explosion which took place there in 1945. The people who were injured or killed in these explosions could properly be classified as war casualties. Despite these explosions Halifax played a most important part in both world wars, but things are not so good for Haligonians today. I do not like to advertise this fact, but apart from housing construction Halifax does not have the industries it should have in proportion to the over-all industrial production and wealth of this country. I am anxious that at this time the Maritime Provinces should