

to hon. members from the other Atlantic provinces, which provinces can benefit from this good Liberal legislation; I am appealing to all of them—

**Mr. Bell (Saint John-Albert):** May I ask a question?

**Mr. Pickersgill:** —to be broadminded, if I can use a favourite phrase of the hon. member for Saint John-Albert, who wishes to interrupt me and whose question I shall be delighted to answer as soon as I finish my sentence. As I say, I am appealing to the members of the government and to their supporters, particularly their supporters from the Atlantic provinces, to urge the Prime Minister to make this a policy for all the Atlantic provinces, not for just some of them and, when we get into committee, to move an amendment to strike out those words so that Newfoundland like the other Atlantic provinces can benefit from this good Liberal legislation.

**Mr. Stanley Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Mr. Speaker, as we indicated at the resolution stage, and as my colleague the member for Assiniboia (Mr. Argue) indicated when we were debating the previous measure, we support the bill that is now before the house. It is a measure which aims at improving the economy in four of the provinces of this country. We take the view that whatever is good for any section of Canada is good for the whole nation. We are happy to give our support to this bill.

However there are a few comments that I should like to make. I shall come in a moment to our contention, which we have made several times of late, that measures of this kind should be presented to parliament in terms of a policy applicable to the entire country. Before I develop, although briefly, what I intend to say on that point, may I make a passing reference to the pleasure which the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Hamilton) had this afternoon in pointing out that the resolution preceding this bill was first dealt with in the House of Commons on December 21, 1957. It gave him particular pleasure to boast of the fact that this measure was thus initiated in parliament exactly six months from the day the new government took office. May I say to my hon. friend that I do not wish to deprive him of the pleasure that he had in making that reference but I think he got his leader's promises mixed up. I have not been able to find that his leader, the present Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker), promised that this legislation would be before parliament within six months. Indeed that reference to six months has to do with something else that is perhaps closer to the heart of my hon. friend, coming

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as he does from the province of Saskatchewan. I hold in my hand a copy of an important blue book.

**Mr. Lesage:** Have you the bible, too?

**Mr. Churchill:** What is it?

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** It is a sessional paper without a number.

**Mr. Lambert:** A red one with a blue cover.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I note that on March 25, 1957, in Prince Albert, as reported in the *Prince Albert Herald* of March 26:

Mr. Diefenbaker told a banquet in his honour that: "We will undertake the South Saskatchewan river dam within six months after we are returned to power".

As I say, I think the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources had his promises mixed when he was boasting this afternoon of what had been done within six months of the date of the new government taking office. As has been indicated from this side of the house on a number of occasions, we are still waiting for the fulfilment of the promise to get the South Saskatchewan river dam under way within six months after the new government took office. However, Mr. Speaker, if I may refer to another page of this same valuable blue book which I hold in my hand—

**Mr. Bell (Carleton):** What is the blue book?

**An hon. Member:** What is the page?

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Page 49.

**Mr. Ellis:** Did you not get a copy?

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** I may say that the present Prime Minister did make a promise that is germane to the legislation before us. That promise was recorded in the *Toronto Star* of June 3, 1957, reporting what the present Prime Minister said in an address at Minto, New Brunswick, on June 1, and also in a television appearance just before he made his speech at Minto. I ask that hon. members opposite note these words which were used by the Prime Minister on that occasion:

Earlier Mr. Diefenbaker told his television audience his party's watchword would be "co-operation ever, domination never" toward the provinces.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Read Mr. Campbell's letter.