

*National Economic Development Board*

finest examples of this very thing that has recently taken place is what has happened in the country of Holland.

Let us be very careful not to confuse the issue with more organization. Let us remember that there are regional boards already set up in the provinces, and from the speech from the throne we have an indication that we are going to have an Atlantic development board as well. Already there is an Atlantic provinces economic council. Just what is the relationship going to be with the provincial and regional boards as we bring in still another board?

I will leave the matter there, but I think that here is an opportunity for us in this house to produce something constructive. Here is an opportunity for us to do something that the country needs greatly. But I caution the government: Do not think the problem will be solved just by setting up another board. I caution the members of the opposition parties to also make sure that we make a positive contribution to this debate in order that whatever does come out of it may serve the purpose which we all recognize is needed.

**Mr. Cameron (Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands):** Mr. Chairman, there is one thing that my good friend, the Minister of Finance, never does. He never disappoints me. As the figure skater of the age he has no peer. But I must say that tonight he has left me a little confused. Almost in his opening remarks he told us that this plan now being presented actually contained nothing new. This, after all, was merely a continuation of what this government has been doing for the last five years. This move, he told us, is part of the great movement towards national unity and development going on, and is just what the government has been doing for the last five years.

A few minutes later he told us that these proposals of his are new, almost revolutionary proposals. Oh, the Lenin from the maritimes with his revolutionary proposals. As I say, he never disappoints me. I knew that these proposals were going to be completely empty in content. I knew, as the hon. member for Essex East knew, that they would be just as empty and just as meaningless as the proposals that were put forward by the Liberal party in their day. In fact, the confidence of the hon. member for Essex East in this matter was revealed by the fact that he came into the house with his script all ready. He knew the minister would be mouthing empty nonsense. He knew quite well what he would say about it. He knew he could claim, as he did here tonight, that the government has been trying to steal the pants of the Liberal party. However, there is a very big hole in

[Mr. Thompson.]

the Liberal party pants, just as there is in the government's pants. It is true enough, as the hon. member for Essex East and the hon. member for Red Deer remarked, no minister would use that word "planning", even though he belongs to a revolutionary party. The word "planning" is apparently still a dirty word in Conservative circles.

It may be just as well he did not use the word "planning" because what has been apparent to all of us tonight is that what is one man's planning is another man's chaos. We might say tonight that we got the Nowlan version of the vision, and it was as vague as the original vision. I am not sure, Mr. Chairman, whether the newspaper reporter whom I read the other day was dealing with a known fact to him or whether he was merely speculating when he suggested that the promoter of this new revolutionary or old Conservative party plan, whichever it is to be, was none other than the cabinet minister without portfolio, the Hon. Mr. McCutcheon. It may be that this is doing an injustice to Senator McCutcheon; perhaps he had nothing to do with it. However, it does make me a little uneasy that the suggestion has been made that he has been the moving spirit behind this, because again I am reminded of the fact that what is one man's planning may be another man's poison.

I am quite sure that the minister without portfolio is an excellent hand at planning for certain purposes. After all, one does not reach the eminence in the business world that he reached without having the ability to plan for a rather narrow group and for rather narrow purposes. However, as I say, he may have had nothing to do with it and it may be exactly what it appears, empty twaddle. I wonder that the hon. member for Essex East really thought it wise to get up and claim this baby because I suspect that before long we will not require any Solomon to decide between these two putative fathers. They will both be only too anxious to abandon this anaemic baby that has been produced tonight.

I am surprised that the hon. member for Essex East was able—I know he is able to do this at the drop of a hat—to wax so eloquently indignant over the fact the government was today bringing in a motion that he and his party had presented only a few years ago. If the hon. member for Essex East will go a little farther back in history he will find that what he quoted tonight as coming from the Conservative government is almost word for word that sort of answer that the hon. member for Essex East and his Liberal colleagues used to make, not once, not twice but many, many times to the proposals made in this house by the group to which I belonged