

of Quebec. Clearly, DIST will be responsible for industrial development in the heartland of Canada, in addition to guiding national science and technology policy. The dangers to Atlantic Canada are clear. Limited resources—\$200 million annually for five years—will be targeted to small and medium-sized businesses in Atlantic Canada while funding for the major economic activities of the future remains in the most prosperous regions of the country.

● (1530)

I noted earlier that we must build from our strengths. Yet Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation cannot promote diversification within the coal producing industry of Cape Breton. In an absurd twist, though, its parent, ACOA, may fund new coal ventures outside Cape Breton Island.

Bill C-103 implies that the Industrial Development Division of Devco will continue as a new corporation with all its former power and ability. The new corporate structure of this "continued"—and that is the legislative word that is used—corporation, Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation, does not imply that the Industrial Development Division will continue as its former self. As a part of Devco, the Industrial Development Division currently reports to a board of directors with a chairman. Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation will report to the president of ACOA, headquartered in Moncton. This is not a "continued" corporation as the bill implies, but a totally new structure, unlike other Crown corporations in Canada.

Clauses 34(3) and 34(4) further weaken the former structure of the Industrial Development Division by giving the minister responsible for ACOA the ability to direct the Crown corporation, Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation. This removes the flexibility of the corporation to make decisions on its own, independently of government, as the Industrial Development Division has been able to do.

Honourable senators, I find very little in Part II of this bill worthy of support and I have deep concerns about the destruction of Devco.

For 20 years the economic fortunes of Cape Breton have been closely tied to those of Devco. Devco remains the major employer and generator of economic activity on the Island. Its continued operations are crucial to the future industrial and economic development of Cape Breton.

I will close with a comment from a *Cape Breton Post* editorial of May 12, 1988. In response to the question "Why change DEVCO now?", the paper responds: "It's a good question, and the government hasn't answered it."

Hon. William J. Petten (Acting Leader of the Opposition): Honourable senators, I move the adjournment of the debate.

Hon. Lowell Murray (Leader of the Government and Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations): Do I understand, honourable senators, that my friend is adjourning the debate on his own behalf or on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition?

May I also, at the same time, ask what is the intention of the opposition with regard to this important bill? I had formed the impression that we would be able to refer the bill to

[Senator Graham.]

committee last week. That was not possible. This is the last sitting day of this week. Does the honourable senator know whether the opposition will have one speaker or several speakers next week, and when we may expect to be able to refer this bill to the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance?

Senator Petten: It is my understanding that we will be prepared to speak on Tuesday. Unfortunately, I was not here yesterday so I did not have an opportunity to speak with Senator MacEachen directly, but it is my understanding that Senator MacEachen will be ready to proceed on Tuesday. That is why I adjourned the debate in my name.

On motion of Senator Petten, debate adjourned.

INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

SEVENTY-NINTH CONFERENCE, GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA

Hon. Nathan Nurgitz rose pursuant to notice of Tuesday, May 17, 1988:

That he will call the attention of the Senate to the Seventy-ninth Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Guatemala City, Guatemala, from April 11 to 16, 1988.

He said: Honourable senators, I should like to take a few moments to present the report of the Seventy-ninth Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held on April 11 to 16 in Guatemala City. I seek the agreement of the Senate to table the report. I say that because the report is some 26 pages long and it has an appendix that consists of another 10 or 12 pages. That is in one language. It will, no doubt, amount to another 30 or 40 pages in the other official language. I think that tabling it would suffice, in that it would then be available, if any honourable senator wished to read it, and we would be able to save the expense of printing it. Copies are also available.

The Hon. the Speaker pro tempore: Is it agreed, honourable senators?

Hon. Senators: Agreed.
Report tabled.

Senator Nurgitz: Perhaps I may continue with a few brief comments about the report. As honourable senators are aware, the central aim of the IPU, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, is to advance the cause of peace and international cooperation by supporting the objectives of the United Nations. At the present time some 109 countries belong to this association. Next year, 1989, marks the centenary of the union and special celebrations are planned at each of the two regular conferences to commemorate this event.

At each conference countries may submit proposals for agenda items for the following conference. Approximately one year ago the World Commission on Environment and Development released its report, popularly known as the "Brundtland Report." Canada has strongly supported both the commission and its report. Our Minister of the Environment, the Honour-