

*Natural Resources*

to the original confederation the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1905. We have seen also the extension northwards of Manitoba and Ontario in 1912 along with the acquisition of the Ungava by Quebec in that same year. We have seen the great surge of our minerals industry that has transformed the economies of the provinces I have mentioned. This transformation was in great part due to the minerals developed in lands that were territorial to the founding provinces.

As Canadians we Maritimers take pride and pleasure in the vast wealth uncovered and being produced. We are delighted that it has contributed so much to the economy of the provinces I have mentioned. We appreciate that indirectly, as Canadians we have benefited, but we still ruefully contemplate our relatively melancholy economic position. I maintain that the Maritime provinces today stand in a position relative to the continental shelf much as the founding provinces stood vis-à-vis the territories of the Confederation period.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that by approaching the question of the mineral resources of the continental shelf in the context of what I have just said and along the lines of my motion the government has probably the last bright chance of rectifying the imbalances and inequities, albeit unintentional, suffered by the Maritimes through entering Confederation. We have heard much lately in and out of parliament about the basic necessity of unification in Canada. I firmly believe that the implementation of my motion would do much to counter the centrifugal forces so disturbing to us and would indeed constitute strong centripetal effects.

It might well be that the Supreme Court test would result in establishing provincial ownership of offshore mineral rights. However, there is the possibility of denial of those rights to the provinces, the possibility of decisions favouring one province over another on strictly legal technicalities, the possibility of decisions restricting provincial rights to a narrow band on the in-shore side of the continental shelf. Any one of these would only exacerbate the feeling in the Maritimes that here we would have again the perpetuation of the disadvantages of Confederation.

The procedure of handouts at some future date is no substitute for a predetermined and agreed allocation of benefits accruing, should our continental shelves prove a source of

natural resources. A press statement attributed to a number of the government to the effect that "with a bonanza like this in the treasury we could afford a tax cut" does little to allay fears in the Maritimes. On the contrary, it suggests a continuation of the old cap in hand trek to Ottawa and the probable continuation of our disparate economic growth even though substantial resources were developed off our shores.

We in Nova Scotia are not unappreciative of the assistance given us by Ottawa and we have an administration in the province which within the financial resources of the area is doing wonders to improve the economy and the standard of living. But under inexorable economic circumstances we have to run very hard just to keep from falling back in position relative to central and western Canada.

Mr. Rasminsky, the distinguished Governor of the Bank of Canada, was in Halifax recently where he addressed the board of trade of that city. He pointed out that Canada stood very high in the international growth league tables. In fact, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation Japan was the only large country whose growth had been greater than Canada's over the period 1961-1965. He then went on to note that in the Atlantic provinces many indices showed about the same rate of growth as the corresponding national averages over this period.

This is all very well and as far as it goes it is encouraging. However, the sobering fact remains that the per capita personal income in the Atlantic provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, averaged for the years 1962, 1963, and 1964, was \$1,148 versus \$1,622 in the other six provinces or almost 29 per cent less. This, I submit, suggests that a massive economic injection is necessary to boost the Maritimes up to parity.

In concluding this particular phase of my remarks I would note that the Governor of the Bank of Canada was addressing the 215th annual meeting of the Halifax board of trade. It would appear we have not been unduly impatient in the Maritimes, Mr. Speaker, and are not to be criticized if we cry out, "How long, oh Lord, how long"?

To those in this house who may worry about the problems of conservation, export and Canadian participation in the development of any resources found off shore, I say all those and any others I have not catalogued here could be worked out in the national interest through the dominion-provincial