

## AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

**Mr. Dinsdale:** Mr. Speaker, when the house adjourned at five o'clock I was pointing out to hon. members that the economic development board act will be continuing a policy that was launched by this government when we first came into office in 1957. I had mentioned some specific examples of planning within government departments, and also inter-governmental planning as between the federal government and the provincial governments that have resulted in concrete benefits for Canada. This is particularly noticeable in the Atlantic region as well as in the prairie region.

Just to give an example of the impact that government programs and activities in the Atlantic area have had on the thinking of the people in that part of Canada I had a most interesting contact early in September with a group of Nova Scotians led by the provincial minister of resources, the Hon. Mr. Manson, who had come to Toronto to promote the advantages for people coming from Upper Canada to Nova Scotia in order to seize the economic activities that are available there at the present time. This is a complete reversal of the pessimistic attitude that used to prevail in this House of Commons. I can remember hearing hon. members from the maritimes crying at great length that all was lost, that they had been the neglected part of confederation and were without hope, but here in the citadel of Upper Canada this group of ambassadors from Nova Scotia were telling the good folk of Ontario that Nova Scotia was the land of promise for the future.

It certainly is a reversal of the thinking that was expressed in the Gordon commission report where, for example, one of the solutions for the continuing problems of the Atlantic region was a migration of maritimers from that part of Canada to the central part of Canada.

I am not going to go into any great detail on the attitude of the prairie region of Canada other than to say it is significant that both these areas which since the thirties—yes, you could even go back to the twenties and the 1910's—have been the areas of political protest in this country. Now they are no longer protesting. They have felt the beneficial impact of these carefully planned programs of this administration. Now we come to the next stage in the development program where it becomes necessary to get closer co-operation, as I indicated earlier this afternoon, between the private sector of the economy, between labour and management and the farmer and all the groups which

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make up the Canadian body politic. This has been one of the great areas of deficiency so far as implementing a national development program is concerned.

We have had to contend with regionalism. We have had conflict between groups, even between classes in this country, and now the time has come when we must think in terms of national development. This can only come about as the result of a greater consciousness of national purpose and national unity. I fully believe this legislation will make a major contribution in achieving this desirable objective.

Mr. Speaker, before concluding I would like to point out that the government recognizes the role it has to play in planning matters. We do not see ourselves as planning in the authoritarian sense or in the sense of governments where there is monolithic power controlled from the top. The government does have a specific role to play and I think this role has been demonstrated in the programs that we have already launched. As I see it, and as the government sees it, the function of government is to provide an economic climate that is favourable for development in all areas of the Canadian economy. Certainly this is true in regard to resource development. It involves fiscal and trade matters as well. My colleagues responsible for those matters will be outlining the role that a board of this kind can play in the policy areas of trade and finance. In the resource field we have been providing such an economic climate. We have been working with private industry to make available better transportation facilities and to provide the necessary conditions under which private enterprise can thrive. We have built railroads and roads and undertaken power development projects of rather large proportions because we believe adequate power is basic to an adequate development program. We have provided roads to resources of some 4,500 miles representing a total contribution on the part of the federal government of \$75 million. We have built development roads north of the 60th parallel. When the program is completed these will represent an additional 2,000 miles of access roads. We have built airfields and airports. We will co-operate with private enterprise in the northern areas in assisting in the building of airfields that will bring into production the mineral resources that we now know are present in abundance in the north. We have brought into being complete modern communications facilities through radio service, as well as through modern telephonic microwave communications, both into the Yukon and the Northwest Territories.