

The Address—Mr. Mullally

very frankly—that we must have a system of all-weather roads to every part of the province of Prince Edward Island.

This could cost \$20 million or more, and I am suggesting it as a project for consideration by the Atlantic development board. If rail service is for the most part removed, we must also have firm and secure guarantees that any freight agreements, preferred charges or other advantages which we presently enjoy with the railways, are adequately safeguarded and preserved.

Since I have mentioned an all-weather road throughout the province as a project for consideration by the Atlantic development board, I would like to say a brief word about this agency. Some hon. members opposite have prophesied that the Atlantic development board will soon be bankrupt, and that \$100 million is not enough for its work. I am somewhat surprised at their lamentations, especially in view of the fact that this is \$100 million more than the previous government gave the board.

When this measure was before parliament during the last session the minister responsible, the present Minister of Transport, expressed the view that \$100 million was a floor, and that when it was used to good advantage he would ask parliament for additional money for the board to carry on its work. I think, if we review the minister's statements during discussion of the bill last session, any fears we have in this regard will be removed. My suggestion is that the Atlantic development board should continue to work on constructive projects that would benefit the economy of the Atlantic area, and that we should cease our criticisms and lamentations.

Despite what the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton (Mr. Flemming) said this afternoon, we are pleased that the Atlantic development board has made possible the Mactaquac power development in New Brunswick, and we are hopeful that this will be of real benefit to both our provinces as a source of cheaper electric power. I should therefore like to support the recommendation for a submarine cable across Northumberland strait so that we on the island can enjoy the advantages from power development in New Brunswick.

I also want to urge the Minister of Transport, as the minister responsible for the Atlantic development board, to give favourable approval as soon as possible to the request for the fisheries development project in Georgetown in my constituency. This is a most important development for the county and for the entire province, and this participation by the Atlantic development board would be of immense benefit to this industrial complex and to the town in which it is located.

[Mr. Mullally.]

May I also solicit the assistance of the Minister of Transport and the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Deschatelets) because we will be calling on them from time to time to help us with other problems connected with this integrated large industrial development in Georgetown.

In the field of social services and related activities I feel I should point out that parents and young people alike are most anxious to see the family allowance payments extended as soon as possible. This is looked upon with great interest by the people in my area and I am sure any announcement in this connection will be received most favourably by them. I can well realize that the government is committed to many programs and certain priorities have to prevail, but I sincerely hope it will be possible to have family allowances extended to age 18 when our young people return to school next September.

This year, Mr. Speaker, we are celebrating the centenary of the Charlottetown conference of 1864, a meeting which gave birth to our Canadian confederation, a confederation which is today a matter of concern to all Canadians. But certainly the problems that we face at this time are not as great or as many as those which confronted the founders of our nation. I think we could all benefit by recalling again the story of that time and by placing ourselves in the position of the fathers of confederation. Our province has been called, and rightly so, the cradle of confederation. We are proud of the part that Charlottetown and Prince Edward Island played in sowing the seed which gave rise to our great confederation. During this year we will be celebrating the centennial of this conference as a fitting prelude to our national centennial of 1967. I extend to you, sir, and through you to all the members of this house, and to all whom they represent, a warm and cordial invitation to visit Prince Edward Island this year and to join with all Canadians in the celebration of this event.

On a bronze mural in the historic confederation chamber in Charlottetown the spirit of the fathers of confederation is captured by the following sentence which is inscribed thereon, "Providence being their guide they builded better than they knew". I think we should ask divine Providence, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of that event to be our guide, and especially to give guidance and direction to those whom we have chosen to direct the affairs of our nation at this time.

[Translation]

Mr. Clement Vincent (Nicolet-Yamaska): Mr. Speaker, before I make my comments on the speech from the throne, I should like to