

National Economic Development Board

arguments, that they have changed their emergency powers attitude or their pipe line attitude one little bit. Let us make it quite clear that I have listened patiently during this debate and during many other debates over the past week in this House of Commons, and it is becoming very clear to both the members of this house and the people across this nation that hon. members opposite, together with the N.D.P., are talking about regimentation when they talk about planning.

We know what the party opposite would do to the rights of parliament if they had the chance to form an administration. We have seen them join in a supply motion vote in this reckless power-at-any-cost attitude to vote for debt free money. We know what lies behind this whole approach to parliament.

The hon. member for Davenport suggested that the Prime Minister (Mr. Diefenbaker) and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Starr) might speak in this debate. Frankly, I do not know whether they are going to do so. The hon. member for Davenport also suggested that both the Minister of Labour and the Prime Minister spoke against the type of board we are setting up under this measure which is before the House of Commons. Such is not the case. I have consulted the record, and the Prime Minister and the Minister of Labour have simply spoken against the type of board the Liberals would like to see superimposed on our country today.

I suppose hon. members opposite would like to accuse me of vagueness, but I am attempting to underline the principles to which I am sure many people in this nation are paying great attention.

The hon. member who has just addressed this house spoke of the fact that the present government is responsible in various ways for interest rates. I should like to draw to the attention of hon. members that on many occasions during the past weeks we have seen the Bank of Canada lowering the rate involved.

(Translation):

Mr. Speaker, our Progressive Conservative party, the party of national unity founded by Macdonald and Cartier, was also the party of economic development which, almost a century ago, started a national program for our great and young country, Canada, under the leadership of Sir John A. Macdonald, when, thanks to his sense of national unity, the Canadian Pacific Railway was built. In that same tradition, the legislation we have here tonight before us is of such importance that it will promote a wide economic development and the unity of our great and young country, Canada.

[Mr. Graftey.]

(Text):

Before I reach the main remarks I have to make in relation to this legislation, I should like to keynote this one idea. Unlike hon. members opposite when they were in power, we do not feel that we have solved all the economic problems in general and in particular.

Much has been done and, of course, much remains to be done. The board which this legislation contemplates will stimulate programs already inaugurated by this administration, programs, I might add, of national unity and national development. Let it be very clear that this board will help us to reach goals already defined. At the same time it should be added that the board will help stimulate programs that the government contemplates having passed by this legislative body.

It will operate with, and assist in, already existing programs for the long and short term benefit of our economy and our nation. Before bringing my brief remarks to a close this evening I would like to put on record some of the long term programs that have already been initiated by this administration, programs that will be encouraged and stimulated by the board that is encompassed by this legislation.

The first heading I would like to discuss is agriculture. This government has put on the statute books a piece of legislation that has given hope to farmers in every province. I am speaking of ARDA. It is funny, you know, that hon. members opposite criticize us for not bringing long term programs to the floor of the House of Commons; but what do they do? Before we have even been given a chance, before we have even signed agreements with the provinces, putting party where they usually put it they torpedo these programs, or try to torpedo them before we can get them working. The hon. member for Essex East (Mr. Martin) criticized ARDA, but I challenge him to come into Brome-Missisquoi and criticize ARDA there, where every farmer is conscious of its worth. This great program was introduced in the House of Commons by the Minister of Agriculture who has finally devised an agricultural policy for all farmers in Canada, both in the east and the west.

Mr. Martin (Essex East): Pure façade.

Mr. Graftey: If the hon. member would accompany me into Brome-Missisquoi and tell my people this program is pure façade he would get a poor response because we, in Brome-Missisquoi, are having one of the first pilot programs under ARDA which will get under way within the next few weeks. As part of our long term agricultural policies we have seen the amendments to the Farm