

The Budget—Mr. Gillis

country. In effect, that is the impression the hon. member left with me in the course of his remarks. I want to reiterate what I have said a good many times, that the problems of the maritimes are not entirely due to any lack of initiative or confidence on the part of the people of that part of the country. You need not take my word for it; go back to confederation. I think one of the most respected men to ever sit in this house was the late Norman Rogers, who conducted an economic survey of the maritime provinces. He made a report, which is in the library and which I have read a good many times. My hon. friend should also read it.

Mr. Carroll: I have read it.

Mr. Gillis: Well, you have forgotten most of it.

Mr. Carroll: But I do not believe everything that is in it.

Mr. Gillis: A great deal of money has been paid for many reports of this kind, some of which my hon. friend has made. If they are not to be accepted as setting out the problems which were investigated, at great cost to the Canadian taxpayers, then I think we should discontinue commissions and all that sort of thing. The late Norman Rogers set out in great detail the fact that since coming into confederation Nova Scotia lost 202 industries to central Canada. At the time of confederation the maritime provinces were the most prosperous part of Canada. That was recognized at the time, and the fathers of confederation granted certain concessions as of right and gave certain guarantees to the people of the maritimes. They recognized that in bringing about confederation they were setting a new base, and that in doing so they were going to disturb and uproot the economy of that part of the country in order to expand the economy of the central part of Canada and ultimately link all the provinces under one federal charter.

There can be no question about the loss of industry by the maritimes to central Canada. I am not quarrelling with that. That has happened; it is past history. But when my hon. friend tries to ignore the developments of the past fifty years and turn back to the people of the maritimes themselves responsibility for the condition in which they find themselves, I think that is unfair. Perhaps one of the principal reasons for that attitude in central Canada and particularly in the federal government over the years is that so many men have been sent to this house tied to the tail of the machine that has ruled this country for the last fifty years to the detriment of everything east of Montreal. They were men who neglected to face facts,

who failed to fight for the part of the country from which they came, who sat complacently in this house and either said nothing or gave an erroneous impression by statements such as we heard this evening. If my hon. friend tries to create the impression that all the industry we have centralized in this part of the country today was created by private enterprise, that impression is completely wrong. I have sat in this house since 1940. I watched the development of our defence program in that year. At that time, when billions of dollars of the taxpayers' money was given to industries across this country, with about 85 per cent of it spent in these two provinces for the creation of new plants and the expansion of old plants for war industry, I rose in my place and protested. That development and expansion resulted from the investment of money by the federal government. I argued then that our defence planning should be carried on in such a way that the effort would be distributed equally across the country on the basis of population.

That is not very much to ask. In Nova Scotia we have about 4 per cent of the population of Canada. We have 2 per cent of the gross production in terms of dollar value. If we had our share—and surely it is not asking too much to merely ask for your share—we should have at least 2 per cent more; and that 2 per cent added to the gross production of that province at this time would make a tremendous difference. But my hon. friend is not prepared to ask for that. He is satisfied with things as they are. I am not. The defence planning in the last war was completely wrong; and the present defence planning is wrong again.

Several times in this house I have suggested decentralization; my hon. friend made reference to that this evening. I was not expressing my own opinion only; I read a good deal. I was expressing an opinion which is held by the leading public men of the province of Nova Scotia. I was expressing an opinion that has been expressed time and again by the newspapers of that province. I consider the *Halifax Herald-Chronicle*, for example, one of the best informed newspapers in Canada. I consider it one of the greatest instruments to fight for the rights of the maritimes; and in editorial after editorial that newspaper has stressed the importance of the decentralization of industry. Many people in this country and in the United States are doing that now, not only as an economic development but for the protection of industry in the event of war. While I am very much interested in it from the standpoint of equalizing the production of this country as between