

that these otherwise reliable civil servants have the sinister faculty of changing character to conform to the particular fancy of this house.

The arguments for and against controls and their continuation have followed the pattern that has been established in this house on previous occasions. On the one hand, there are the vocal champions of the cause of abolition of all controls, and almost invariably these hon. members are Progressive Conservatives. At the other extreme are those who speak out strongly for the maintenance of controls and even for increasing them, in accordance with their policies of socialism or controlled economy. Neither of these extremes presents a practical solution under present circumstances, as their supporters well know and as the Progressive Conservatives have indicated by their votes on many occasions.

Time and again Nova Scotians have indicated their satisfaction with the steady course this government is steering between the shoals of economic extremities on either side. This afternoon I was interested and amused by some parts of the speech delivered by the hon. member for Eglinton (Mr. Fleming). When he said this house was floundering in its treatment of this bill it must be presumed that he was expressing his own views or the views of his party, since, as far as I have been able to determine, they certainly are not the views of this country. His arguments were not sufficiently persuasive for this party, even though they were generously buttressed by such magic words as "willy-nilly", "holus-bolus" and many others.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): Are you sure you have an open mind?

Mr. WINTERS: As Nova Scotians see it, Mr. Speaker, there are two broad classes of economic controls. The first and much more far-reaching class will not be affected by this legislation, since it is not involved one way or the other. I refer to those controls or restrictions which seem to be Nova Scotia's birthright as the result of her geographical situation; economic controls that act in restraint of the flow of a free supply and demand economy. When one considers the freight rates, long, slow rail hauls, the distances from centres of population, and other factors which act to our disadvantage it must be clearly evident that Nova Scotia has been operating under a system of the most severe type of economic controls since the days of confederation. The same can be said of the other two maritime provinces and, to some extent, of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia. It is these controls,

[Mr. Winters.]

not the temporary controls with which we are dealing at the moment, that give us our greatest concern.

I am sure many hon. members do not appreciate the significance of this position, and there is a tendency to dismiss it as the old bogey of maritime rights; but I can tell hon. members that it is discouraging indeed to be told time and again by buyers in central Canada that they are not interested in products manufactured in Nova Scotia because almost invariably it goes without saying that, even though many items may be manufactured more cheaply in Nova Scotia, they cannot be placed on the big markets at competitive prices because of freight rates. It is this obstacle in restraint of trade with the rest of Canada that controls maritime economy to our disadvantage. This is a real problem, which merits full consideration, but I need not take the time of the house to discuss it more fully just now.

The second class of controls to which I referred are in the category we are discussing at the present time. The statement presented this afternoon by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Abbott) is pregnant with significance, as one hon. member said last evening, as far as it applies to coal subsidies in particular. The removal of subsidies will be viewed with decidedly mixed feelings in Nova Scotia. The hon. member for Acadia (Mr. Quelch) said he saw no reason why Canada should subsidize the rest of the world. To go one step farther—many Canadians feel that Nova Scotia is over-subsidized, but in many respects the reverse is true. When one considers the normal flow of wealth from Nova Scotia to Ontario and Quebec, the disproportionate amount of foreign loans returning to industrial Ontario and Quebec through the bulk of orders being placed in these provinces, and other factors, it appears to Nova Scotians that in many ways we are subsidizing these other provinces of Canada; and to quote once more from the speech made earlier this evening by the hon. member for Acadia, we often wonder why this must be the case.

Under the circumstances, though we strongly believe in private initiative, we do not consider some subsidies, such as that paid on coal, to be as iniquitous as many people would have us believe. In this matter of controls we have only to refer to the position of western farmers with respect to wheat to realize something of what we maritimers feel with respect to subsidies of this kind. I wish to make it perfectly clear, however, that we do not believe in subsidizing to the point where industry and/or labour feel they do