

*Canadian Organization Act, Atlantic Canada, 1987*

Atlantic Canadians. In fact it is a statement that is an affront to the truth. The Industrial Development Division of DEVCO will remain after the passage of Bill C-103 but with a strengthened mandate as the Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation. The only difference is that currently that division, as part of DEVCO, reports to the Minister responsible for Industry, Science and Technology, the DRIE department. That is where DEVCO has to answer to.

**Mr. Forrestall:** Here in Ottawa.

**Mr. Valcourt:** Here in Ottawa, what is proposed in this Bill by the creation of the Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation is to have it report to the Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

With the creation of ACOA and a new Department of Industry Science and Technology, IDD as the Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation will report to the new Minister responsible for economic development in all of Atlantic Canada. As a result, Enterprise Cape Breton will not in any way be impeded from doing what the Industrial Development Division has been doing for the past 20 years, contrary to what the Member stated. In fact, it now has a better chance of success because it is now in direct connection with ACOA, which is the lead federal agency for economic development in Atlantic Canada.

There are further provisions in the Bill that prove the absolute hollowness of the Liberal Party's argument. In establishing the Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation, Section 27 gives it its own board of directors separate from ACOA and separate from DEVCO. To me that is an improvement. That means more strength for this important tool for Cape Breton economic development.

Furthermore, Clause 33 lays out the objects of Enterprise Cape Breton. I challenge any Liberal Member to take exception to what I am going to say. Clause 33 lays out in identical terms the powers of the Industrial Development Division of DEVCO to the Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation. The words are exactly the same and they state:

The objects of the Corporation are to promote and assist, either alone or in conjunction with any person or the Government of Canada or of Nova Scotia or any agency of either of those Governments, the financing and development of industry on the Island of Cape Breton to provide employment outside the coal producing industry and to broaden the base of the economy of the Island.

In other words, the Government remains committed to the original mandate of the Industrial Development Division. No one, not even the not-so-famous Senator in the other place, can take exception to that. It is plainly written in Clause 33.

It is even more important to note that in Clause 34 the powers of the Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation will be the same as those of the IDD, except for some minor technical changes. The Industrial Development Division has been given an extraordinary range of powers that very few, if any, other federal Crown corporations have received. All those powers have been retained for Enterprise Cape Breton Development Corporation. They include the power to provide assistance to a

company that is likely to make a substantial contribution to the industrial development of Cape Breton Island through loans with or without security and with or without interest, grants, equity participation, or guarantees subject to Governor in Council approval. The Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation will also retain the power to purchase lands, sell lands for cash or equity, take mortgages on lands sold, and advertise industrial opportunities on Cape Breton.

Clause 38 provides that the head office of that corporation must be in Sydney in Cape Breton, and not in Moncton, as the Hon. Member for Cape Breton—The Sydneys was trying to let the people believe. He was claiming that it would be run from Moncton. Clause 38 clearly provides that the head office of the corporation must be in Sydney. The corporation will be run from Sydney and not from Moncton or Ottawa. That is contained in the Bill. Bill C-103 and the philosophy behind it create very direct links between the ACOA Act and the ECB Act. The Government has set out to establish a new economic development system in Atlantic Canada. It is vital and necessary that Cape Breton should be linked to that system. That is what Bill C-103 accomplishes.

● (1230)

If we listen to the brilliant Senator up there, he would want IDD to remain there linked to Ottawa, not linked to the one agency that has the mandate for the economic development of all of Atlantic Canada. He wants it linked to Ottawa again. Those Liberal Senators like it to be closed. Now that they are in the Senate, they have found a way to keep it closed to Ottawa. They are against the economic development of Atlantic Canada. The Liberal Party has been estranged from the people of Atlantic Canada by this move. To see Members of the House of Commons defend this move is totally unacceptable. I dare say that in the very near future—and I hope that is soon—Atlantic Canadians will have a chance to condemn those Members of Parliament who are denying them the opportunity to develop their own regions with the implementation of this Act. That is what this debate is all about this morning.

For them to defend their unelected cousins in the other place, against the will of the elected people, means that they will go down in history as the people who have done just that. Atlantic Canadians will never accept non-elected people being the master of their economic development. They want to be the architect of their own economic development.

Even the Hon. Member for St. John's East (Mr. Harris), who has not informed himself, says everything is fine. Even if the Senators are playing with Bill C-103, even if they are delaying the approval of the Bill, it does not disturb anything. Money is still flowing. It is the same old attitude and it has not changed. They think that by throwing money at the problem they will solve it. They do not realize that Bill C-103 creates more than just giving money to corporations in Atlantic Canada. These measures cannot take effect until the Bill is passed.