

Atlantic Development Board Act

answer to the question I asked is in the affirmative, namely that the area development agency and the Atlantic development board are one and the same thing, certainly there should be no expiry date for the Atlantic development board. I think this provision should be deleted even if they are two different things. As to the amount of \$100 million which is being provided, I have stated that so far as we on this side of the house are concerned it is insufficient to carry out the objects of the board as set out in the act.

Finally, may I say that when speaking last session on the Atlantic development board I put forward a recommendation that the first thing the board should do is to look into the matter of assisting labour surplus areas. My own area is one of these and there are others throughout the Atlantic region. I would hope that this would be the first thing that would be done. I quite understand that full co-operation with the various provincial governments will be necessary. I further understand that the premier of Nova Scotia, who is a Nova Scotian first in his visits to Ottawa, came here to see the Secretary of State recently and put forward the proposal that areas such as the one I represent should be carefully investigated first by the Atlantic development board. I should like to bring that to the attention of the Secretary of State again. It is a most important submission.

I know that in the province of Nova Scotia Industrial Estates Limited, which was set up by the Tory provincial government, has done a lot of good work. It needs to be tied in with the Atlantic development board. I was speaking a year or two ago to a member of the Atlantic development board who is the president of Industrial Estates Limited. I discussed with him the matter of bringing industry into certain areas. He told me that he believed there were some cases in which it was quite difficult for Industrial Estates Limited, to provide the necessary funds to bring industries into certain areas and he thought there should be some effort on the federal level to cope with this situation. I believe the Atlantic development board is the answer to this problem.

I have nothing more to say on the bill at this time. In due course it will go before the committee and I may have something to say then. I believe that the board can be of a great assistance and will be of help to the Atlantic area through achieving the objects for which it was created.

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria): Mr. Speaker, I have spoken before in this debate and I do not wish to take up too much time at this juncture. However, there are one or two points I wish to bring out and a couple of questions I wish to

ask. In a previous debate the Secretary of State (Mr. Pickersgill), in reply to the hon. member for Royal (Mr. Fairweather), said that the Atlantic development board and the \$100 million constituted a gap filler. He also went on to say, as found on page 1270 of *Hansard*:

I have mentioned various departments, and I probably did not mention all that I should have, because there are other projects—

And then he specifically mentioned his colleague, the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources (Mr. Laing).

—and my hon. friend the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources, through the national parks and in other ways will, I hope, be contributing very materially to that capital investment in the Atlantic provinces.

The Secretary of State nods his head in agreement. I am very glad that while we started off in the debate with an amount of \$100 million the Secretary of State has said that is a floor rather than a ceiling. We are very pleased and happy to know that, because we have nowhere else to go but up. I am sure that a great deal more than \$100 million will be required. As I have already said, the Secretary of State agrees with me that there will be massive spending on capital investment by the different departments. I believe he mentioned the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Robichaud) and other ministers who would be doing a lot of spending.

I am sure we on the opposition side will be most happy and contented if the government will carry on the spending by the different departments that has taken place since 1957 in various constituencies and throughout the Atlantic provinces generally. We would like a little more spending, but even if it remains at the same level I am sure we will all be rather happy. If hon. members will check the figures they will find that in public works and in the development of our national parks in the east there has been more spending and capital investment than in any other previous comparable period. The Secretary of State agrees with me, and it would appear that we are going to have the spending.

I am happy that is so, but will you tell me why in heaven's name I should be advised by the Minister of Northern Affairs and National Resources that the parks branch is not going to go ahead with a small project involving the construction of a golf clubhouse costing approximately \$150,000 in Cape Breton Highlands national park? It would provide employment for people and would assist in encouraging more tourists to come to the area. The tourists would spend more money and the project would help in the long run. I am sure we can look forward to the assistance of my colleague from Cape Breton, the Minister