

disposal to alleviate the real tragedy that exists today in this country, where there is a community of 6,500 people without jobs and without hope who look to this government for an answer.

Mr. Marchand (Langelier): Mr. Chairman, may I have one moment in order to give an answer which I promised. The amount is \$600,000.

Mr. Perrault: Mr. Chairman, we have listened with a great deal of interest during the past hours to the voices of gloom, doom, disaster and worse. I think there are very few people in this house, certainly from the maritime provinces, who would regard these Jeremiah voices as their authentic voice in this parliament of Canada. We have not heard one optimistic word all day about the future of the great maritimes. There has not been one optimistic word. We have heard nothing but condemnation of the efforts being made by the government of this country, this country of great potential, to lessen the regional disparity. We have been told that nothing is being done in the maritime provinces. We do not find in any of the budget speeches of the province of Nova Scotia in recent years words which—

Mr. Nowlan: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Perrault: I hold in my hand—

The Deputy Chairman: Order. The hon. member for Annapolis Valley on a point of order.

Mr. Nowlan: Mr. Chairman, since the Prime Minister is unable to tell us who this man is, I would like to know—

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Nowlan:—whether he is a member and what his name is.

Mr. Perrault: You see, Mr. Chairman, this typifies the kind of destructive, negative opposition we have heard in this house today. Those in the opposition, who are so concerned about the facts, may some day wake up to a realization of what actually is being done to lessen the regional disparity in this country. I hold in my hand the facts about the kind of aid that is being extended to the maritime provinces. I hope that my friend from Nova Scotia, who had nothing but words of condemnation for the government would note

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this. The Federal contribution to Nova Scotia, its municipalities and certain provincial institutions in 1961-62 amounted to \$56 million, in 1962-63 to \$65 million, in 1963-64 to \$69 million, in 1964-65 to \$77.64 million, in 1965-66 to \$95.246 million, in 1966-67 to \$132 million and in 1967-68 to \$181 million.

Mr. Peters: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Chairman. May I ask the hon. member what the source is for the figures he has just presented to the house.

Mr. Perrault: Mr. Chairman, I would be delighted to table all these figures. I will make them available to the house. Here are the figures—

Mr. Peters: On a point of order—

The Deputy Chairman: Order, please.

Mr. Forrestall: Mr. Chairman, I rise on a question of privilege.

The Deputy Chairman: The hon. member for Timiskaming on a point of order.

Mr. Peters: Mr. Chairman, I am rising on the same point of order. It is a rule of this house that when the source of figures which have been presented to the house is asked for the hon. member must give that source. I only asked for the source because I think it would be of interest to hon. members.

Mr. Perrault: I shall be delighted to do so. The source is the Dominion Bureau of Statistics official figures. If you would like explicit information I think you could extract it very easily. The Leader of the Opposition, when he was premier of Nova Scotia did not condemn the Atlantic development fund and other programs of this kind. I resent very much the fact that—

Mr. McGrath: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Perrault: We listened to you and now you sit down.

Mr. Nowlan: You make a lot of sound and no sense.

Mr. Perrault: There is a program for improvement of poverty, increased economic efficiency and more vigorous competition.

• (9:50 p.m.)

Great progress is being made on the path to reducing economic disparity. I want to say I