

*Atlantic Development Board Act*

of the Atlantic economy. There was no representative of heavy industry and no representative of labour.

**Mr. MacInnis:** May I ask the hon. member a question?

**Mr. Regan:** Yes.

**Mr. MacInnis:** With reference to the statement the hon. member has just made, is he prepared to stand up and say now that the future make-up of this board will include a representative of labour, the fishermen, mining, farming and lumbering?

**Mr. Regan:** Well, as the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. MacInnis) well knows, I do not speak for the government. However, I will certainly be urging, in my remarks, that a representative of labour be included. I wonder if last year the hon. member made representations along the same lines in favour of all these types of people he now mentions?

**Mr. MacInnis:** Would the hon. member permit another question? The five categories which I named were those indicated by the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) as being represented on the board. Is he prepared now to stand up and say he wants representatives from these five areas?

**Mr. Regan:** If the hon. member for Cape Breton South does not mind, I will make my speech. I certainly do want to see a representative from labour on the board at any rate.

Then, the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton said that under the Conservative regime the Atlantic provinces received more in the way of specific grants than they had under any government in the past. He used impressive statistics to illustrate this fact. However, Mr. Speaker, the test of a government is the manner in which it faces the problems existing and the way in which it comes to grips with them. I say this, that whatever the previous administration did for the Atlantic region, it did not do enough because during the years it was in office the Atlantic provinces fell further behind the rest of Canada than they had been previously in industrial growth; they fell further behind the rest of Canada during those years than they had been previously—

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** I wonder if the hon. gentleman would mind proving that statement?

**Mr. Regan:** I would be happy to do so upon a subsequent occasion if the hon. member—

**Some hon. Members:** Oh, oh.

28902-5-126½

**Mr. Regan:**—if the hon member seriously takes issue with it.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** I do take issue with it. If the hon. member wants me to comment upon the statement, he is saying that the rest of Canada advanced at a greater rate in that six-year period than did the Atlantic provinces. Perhaps it did, but it is my profound impression that we did gain some ground.

**Mr. Pickersgill:** Look at the unemployment figures.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** We are talking about per capita income.

**Mr. Regan:** Hon. members on the other side will tell us that there was no unemployment during that year. However, we found a great many voters in the Atlantic provinces who thought there was. For this reason, the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton has had occasion to regret the fact that Conservative members were not returned. During the years the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton was the premier of New Brunswick, he did not feel the same way. Although he indicated he was pleased with the new grants, he did not indicate he was completely satisfied with the amount that had been given to the maritimes at that period.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that at the moment we have a situation where the Atlantic development board can do something. We have no assurance it will be successful. In the past many attempts have been made to help the maritime economy, but they have failed. Hon. gentlemen on the other side of the house know full well that some of the present members of the board have, for years, been violently partisan supporters of the Conservatives. These appointments by the former regime were of a partisan nature.

**Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton):** Name them.

**Mr. Muir (Cape Breton North and Victoria):** Name them, and what did they do?

**Mr. Regan:** However, I would be the first to say that some of these men are men of considerable ability, men who I am confident are genuinely dedicated to the improvement of the maritime economy, as are most Canadians. I believe it is noteworthy that this government has not just displaced these members of the board, but has proposed rather to broaden the make-up of the board to make it more representative of the economy and make it a more effective board. Surely, the supporters of the former government cannot seriously object to this unless they are complaining, as I suspect is the case with the