

National Economic Development Board

As far as I am concerned, I have stated that I would give further consideration to the question. But if hon. members wish to table the article, they are free to do so.

Mr. Laniel: Mr. Speaker, I will see to it that the article is tabled within fifteen minutes.

LABOUR CONDITIONS**CANADAIR—REPORTED INTENTION TO LAY-OFF EMPLOYEES**

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Real Caouette (Villeneuve): Mr. Speaker, may I ask a question of the Minister of Labour? Have there been any new developments in the stand of the government on the imminent lay-off of 2,000 Canadair workers—500 have already been laid off and an additional 1,500 will have been by Christmas—and has the government taken any step to prevent the dismissal of so many Canadair employees?

Mr. Speaker: An answer to that question was given yesterday.

INQUIRY OF THE MINISTRY

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Gerald Laniel (Beauharnois-Salaberry): Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Prime Minister.

Would the Prime Minister tell the house whether the recent statement by the hon. member for Villeneuve on nuclear weapons reflects the new government policy in that field?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The hon. member, although he is relatively new in this house, should recognize that his question is out of order.

(Text):

NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD**PROVISION FOR DEFINITION OF DUTIES, APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS, ETC.**

The house resumed from Tuesday, November 27, consideration in committee of the following resolution—Mr. Nowlan—Mr. Chown in the chair:

That it is expedient to introduce a measure to establish a national economic development board and to define the duties thereof, to provide for the appointment of the chairman and other members of the board and for the payment of the chairman's remuneration and of certain expenses of the members thereof, to provide further that the board may engage the services of such advisers and staff as may be necessary to enable it to

[Mr. Speaker.]

carry out its duties and to provide further for other related and incidental matters.

Mr. Nicholson: Mr. Chairman, in my opening remarks last night I mentioned the need for more secondary manufacturing industries in Canada. Such industries are important because in them lies our best hope for correcting the imbalance of trade which now exists and, as I also mentioned last night, in those industries lies our only real hope for preventing the unemployment insurance situation, to prevent the fund from becoming exhausted and to put our people back to work.

There are many other good reasons why we should do everything we can to encourage and promote secondary manufacturing industries. The wide range of essential supplies that were produced in Canada during the war years, together with the high quality of those supplies and the smooth transition from a wartime to peacetime economy, plus the high percentage of manufactured goods included in our exports shortly after world war II, show what can be done to expand our manufacturing industries when a government has good advice and is prepared to follow it.

I might say that as a result of my own experience during the war, and in the years immediately following it, I am convinced that Canada can emerge as the creator of an increasing flow of manufactured goods of high quality and design if we go about it the right way. Here is where a national economic development board could play an important part, but it can only play this part if it is properly constituted and is encouraged to think and plan without too much government interference. If these conditions are met, then such a board has great possibilities.

Naturally, until we see the bill, it is impossible to go into any detail about the measure which the minister contemplates introducing as a result of this resolution, but we on this side of the house certainly agree with the minister that our economy needs momentum and that any board which has a reasonable chance of bringing this about should be encouraged.

I spent the ten most interesting and challenging years of my life associated with what is now one of Canada's major industries, the chemical industry, during the period of the greatest growth of that industry in the history of Canada. As a result of that experience I am convinced that with intelligent planning and the right support from government, both the chemical and other secondary industries have a great future ahead of them, especially from a long range viewpoint and, as a young country, we should be thinking of these things from the standpoint of the long range position.