

Atlantic Development Board Act

In the year 1956-57 that province received \$5,048,000, in 1957-58 \$7,072,000 and in 1962-63 \$14,560,000.

An hon. Member: Double.

Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton): More than double. Let us take Nova Scotia. In 1956-57 Nova Scotia received \$31,336,000, in 1957-58 \$39,613,000, but in 1962-63 \$78,515,000, or practically double.

An hon. Member: Good members.

Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton): Good members; that is right. In 1956-57 New Brunswick received \$29,505,000, in 1957-58 \$34,058,000 and in 1962-63 \$68,200,000, again roughly double and much more than double the 1956-57 figure. I have made a rough addition of the figures but I did not take 1957-58 into account because I did not anticipate that I would need to.

Mr. Pickersgill: It makes a material difference.

Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton): In 1956-57 the total amount for the Atlantic provinces was \$90,700,000 while in 1962-63 the total was \$229,408,000. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, is it any wonder that I stood up here a couple of weeks ago and said that we could not allow this measure to pass without having an opportunity to set the record right for this house and for the country? I am sure you will agree that remark was entirely justified in the light of the information which has been given this afternoon. Nothing would give me more pleasure than to have the time to talk about the seven Atlantic resolutions which my friend sponsored.

Mr. Cashin: Will the hon. gentleman permit a question?

Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton): I will when I am through. In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, it was a most unfortunate result when the supporters of the previous government from the Atlantic provinces were reduced in number in the recent election. I said that on election night and I repeat that it was most unfortunate because in my opinion—I can prove this, I think, to the satisfaction of anyone who is willing to accept logic and facts—the previous government which held office was the most considerate of and sympathetic to the needs of the Atlantic provinces of any government, Liberal or Conservative, that we have had since confederation. That is my opinion and I believe it is justified by the facts.

I will not weary the house by speaking at greater length. I have indicated those amendments that I think should be considered by our friends opposite. I know there are many

[Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton).]

members here from the Atlantic provinces and elsewhere perhaps who want to have something to say on the bill. Therefore, as I say, I will not weary the house longer at the moment.

Mr. Cashin: Mr. Speaker, I have a question I should like to address to the hon. member. He quoted two figures, approximately \$25 million and \$68 million. Is he aware that only \$13 million of the \$68 million paid to the province of Newfoundland was paid as the result of laws passed by the Conservative administration from 1957 to 1963? In other words, approximately \$55 million of that total amount was paid under the provisions of laws passed by the previous Liberal administration.

Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton): I am not going to get into an argument with the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Cashin), but I do want to say to him that his premier was the man who said it was a great thing for Newfoundland when the Diefenbaker government came into power because they had done more than had been done previously.

Mr. Pickersgill: He did not say it after term 29.

Mr. Flemming (Victoria-Carleton): He said it.

Mr. Gerald A. Regan (Halifax): I am pleased to have the opportunity to enter this discussion because of its importance to the Atlantic provinces. In doing so, I should like first to comment upon statements made by the hon. member for Victoria-Carleton (Mr. Flemming). The hon. member contends that it was solely for political reasons these amendments to the Atlantic Development Act have been introduced. I say, Mr. Speaker, it is obvious to all sections of the public that nothing could be further from the truth. The provisions that give the board a specific amount of money bring this legislation down into an area of realism in approaching the problems of the Atlantic area, instead of being something floating around in the clouds, which would result in nothing more than another report on the problems of the Atlantic region.

Not only do these amendments provide for giving a specific amount of money to this board but they provide also for broadening the representation on the board. This enables the Atlantic development board to work effectively for the Atlantic region. The hon. member suggests that there is nothing but political reasons for the new appointments. He says that the former administration gave long and serious consideration to the make-up of the board. In doing so, they came forth with appointments which do not present a broad representation of the various aspects