

Atlantic Development Board Act

Donald report which may hold out some hope for the industrial area of Cape Breton, whether it be the coal industry or other industries in that area.

I also wish to ask him to take a firm stand and resist the suggestion of the leader of the New Democratic Party that the Minister of Industry take over the administration of the Atlantic Development Board. We do not wish the Minister of Industry to do so. Despite the fact that the Minister of Transport is not a maritimer, we realize that he represents Bonavista-Twillingate which may present certain advantages to the maritimes.

I should very much like to hear the minister report on the Donald commission since the government seems to have taken some comfort from the stand taken by Premier Stanfield and supported by the union leaders in Nova Scotia to the effect that coal can no longer be considered a growth industry in that area, will the minister not also take into consideration the suggestions made by Premier Stanfield in his speech?

May I point out that the former minister of labour made promises prior to the election concerning the coal situation in Nova Scotia and despite what our leader says in respect of those particular promises they were originally designed to get votes. In fact, in the minister's own words as recorded in *Hansard* those promises did produce 5,000 more votes.

Mr. Diefenbaker: It did not turn out that way.

Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South): I therefore ask the minister to give serious consideration to the suggestions made by Premier Stanfield and at least to alleviate the concern of Nova Scotians in respect of that part of the report which has been made known recommending that vast amounts of capital be imported into the industrial area of Cape Breton.

Hon. J. W. Pickersgill (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, I suppose one should be grateful even for backhanded compliments and I thank the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. MacInnis) for his slightly grudging suggestion that the Atlantic Development Board should remain under my jurisdiction rather than under some other minister.

Mr. Diefenbaker: That is high generosity.

Mr. Pickersgill: I recognize it and acknowledge it for what it is.

I did not make a speech at the opening of the debate on second reading because it seemed to me that in the observations I had

[Mr. MacInnis (Cape Breton South).]

made yesterday during the discussion on the resolution I had covered the content of the bill. However, a few things have been said that I think deserve some notice from this side of the house. I wish to say right away that I appreciate the tone of every speech that has been made this afternoon, while I do not agree with everything that was said in all of them.

I think this is one occasion when all of us have addressed ourselves to the problem which is the purpose and the *raison d'être* of the Atlantic Development Board, that is, an effort to bring the economy of the Atlantic provinces up to the level of the economy of other parts of Canada where, for geographical, historic or other reasons, the advance has in many cases been more rapid.

The senior member for Queens (Mr. MacLean) who spoke first on this subject suggested that we should make a special effort to stimulate industries that would be engaged in export. I think the hon. member, who is a former minister of fisheries, is well aware of the excellent work that has been done, is being done and will continue to be done by the Atlantic Development Board in helping to modernize one of the most important and oldest of all export industries of the Atlantic provinces, the fishing industry and the processing of fish. Notwithstanding the tremendous amount of fresh water in all the provinces, we have discovered that a lot of our fresh water is not nearly as pure as it should be, nor nearly as accessible as it should be.

The board has made special efforts to make water available to processing plants and it has kept some of them in existence when otherwise they would not have been able to carry on. It has also stimulated the growth of other plants and I therefore think that much more should be done in this sphere. Indeed, a survey of the water resources of the whole region has been undertaken by the board. The accessibility of water is absolutely essential in the location of industries because all of us know that everywhere on this continent water is becoming perhaps the most important of all the resources that large industries, and especially resource industries, look for when they are locating new plants.

I think it is particularly opportune that the hon. members for Queens and Victoria-Carleton should have emphasized export industries and the geographical advantages of the Atlantic provinces in this field on the eve of the conference to be held here next week between the Prime Minister of Canada and the prime ministers, the premiers and the