

The Address—Mr. Chatterton

it should be attacked in its national context. We believe that the people of the Atlantic provinces have the enterprise and the initiative with which to achieve a higher standard of living, but they need the active support of all Canadians.

Mr. Speaker, this study made by the Atlantic provinces economic council commands the sympathetic consideration of all those who are interested in the welfare of the maritime provinces. It is obvious that drastic measures must be undertaken to raise the economic standards existing in the maritime provinces to the same standard levels as those which exist in other parts of the country.

Besides the suggestions already embodied in the study made by APEC there is one main project which is constantly alive at the present time in the minds of all maritimers. I have referred in the past to the construction of the Chignecto canal. I wish to repeat at the present time, and with the same emphasis, what I have already said on this subject in this house on a previous occasion, as found at page 1458 of *Hansard* of 1961:

In the field of transportation, we in the Atlantic region continue to stress the necessity of the Chignecto canal project as a national extension of the St. Lawrence seaway. Without it the impact of the seaway on the maritime region may well be adverse. Now that the federal government has the benefit of the views of the new Minister of Forestry, who always was such a strong promoter of this project, perhaps we can look with greater confidence to its early commencement.

The undertaking of the project would also provide a wide field of local employment to our working force, as well as fostering the development and expansion of our commercial and industrial life.

Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the opening of what was generally assumed to be the last session of the twenty fourth parliament, the Prime Minister was expected to announce a policy of national investment in the Atlantic region on a scale calculated to end, once and for all, the grievous disabilities suffered there since confederation. It would have caused relief and rejoicing throughout the four Atlantic provinces and would have been welcomed throughout Canada as a bold and honourable settlement of a just debt which would have turned out to be a highly profitable national investment.

Unfortunately, however, nothing of that nature was contained in the speech from the throne. One therefore wonders what has happened to the main resolutions adopted by the Progressive Conservative candidates on the eve of the 1957 election and endorsed by the present Prime Minister. What are the Progressive Conservative candidates from the Atlantic region, who are representing over

three quarters of the electoral district in that region, expecting to do in this regard? What are they expecting to do particularly with regard to the three resolutions which I should like to quote at this time:

1. A national development program of federal assistance for developing the resources of the Atlantic provinces, having regard to their differing needs and varying financial capabilities.

2. Industrial decentralization, by placing a more equitable share of defence contract expenditures within the Atlantic provinces; by the establishment of crown corporations; and by encouraging private enterprises to locate in the area; and by encouraging the processing here of our natural resources as a result of special fiscal consideration.

3. Capital projects program, to provide federal capital assistance for provincial projects to enlarge the basic economy of the area.

At this late date one can but conclude that these resolutions only represent further broken promises made by the Conservative party during the last two general elections. Can there be any doubt that it would be better for Canada's economy to invest on a great scale in the creation of lasting assets in order to vitalize the Atlantic economy, rather than to continue to pay hundreds of millions of dollars just to keep us alive?

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I should like to quote what Professor Smith, president of APEC, has to say in this respect:

Let us spend more money in those new and permanent installations that will create jobs in the Atlantic provinces, so that less, much less be spent in the future, on such items that simply help to maintain incomes, but do little, or nothing to solve the basic economic problems.

And from another source:

You have got to have subsidies and unemployment payments if you have disastrously low income standards and unemployment. But they should only be for short terms. Compare this with the lasting benefits of growth investment. Our recommendations are for designed complexes of growth industries, which can hold their own with the major concentrations in southeastern England.

Mr. George Chatterton (Esquimalt-Saanich):

It is with humility, Mr. Speaker, that I rise to speak from a place once occupied by an eminent Canadian, namely General George R. Pearkes, V.C. I am sure all hon. members will be pleased to hear that His Honour, with the help of his lady, is fulfilling the office of lieutenant governor of British Columbia with the acclaim and admiration of all.

I congratulate the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the speech from the throne. I have read other such speeches, but this is the first time I have heard them in person, and I was favourably impressed. I offer congratulations to the hon. member for Bellechasse on his appointment as president of the privy council; to the hon. member for Quebec South on his appointment as Minister of Mines and Technical Surveys; to you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and to the parliamentary