

*Atlantic Development Board Act*

rule had exhausted the subject. He must be a very young hon. member if he really thinks that. Any maritimer would find it easy to list a catalogue of the years of neglect by the party which he supports.

However, it is not my intention to pursue a partisan approach to this most important matter. I share the view of the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. MacInnis). I had thought that the Minister of Labour (Mr. MacEachen) might be heading this board because I know of his long standing interest in and knowledge of the economic problems of the region. However, this course was not followed, so we must make do as best we can with the leadership of the Secretary of State (Mr. Pickersgill).

I have only one subject I wish to raise at this time. I was not entirely happy with the response which the Secretary of State gave me some time ago when we were discussing this topic on the resolution stage at nearly ten o'clock. As is his wont, he threw some barbs and some quips. He referred to me as "the wealthy member for Queens". At another time he said I had been asleep. Each of these assumptions was as preposterous as the other, but neither surprised me. I was concerned about the manner in which he shuffled off my inquiry about the Prince Edward Island causeway. He did not say, as did the former minister of national revenue, that the causeway was a subject upon which a government decision had been made and a firm commitment given and that, therefore, the question of feasibility would not be the subject of consideration by the board. He just suggested that I should not repudiate my leader.

There is no need to worry about that, but I am a bit worried about his government repudiating my leader's firm commitment on the subject of the causeway. I have been looking forward to a firm statement being made in this house by a member of the government respecting the building of the causeway on the same lines as was made by the former prime minister speaking in his place, when he made a firm commitment about this matter. We shall feel a little easier then about the allocation of this \$100 million. I still say this is not enough to cover up a century of neglect of the maritime region. I hope that during this discussion we shall get something approximating a recognition that the course which the previous government undertook will be followed by the present government. The people of my province expect this, and it is my duty to ask for such a commitment. The Secretary of State used to be very interested in the Prince Edward Island causeway. I remember that when he came to Prince Edward Island he called it "the pauseway". This was the first time he came to Prince

Edward Island, and the premier of that province was so delighted to have him because in every community in which he appeared Conservative support rose to unprecedented heights. I hope he will come down again when next we go to the country, which may be very soon: One never knows. However, we always welcome him.

With regard to the composition of the board, I am hopeful that the non-partisanship which distinguishes the Secretary of State will be revealed in the selection. I am not going to discuss the question of politics at all. I should just like to say that in my opinion it would be a mistake to take too narrow a view of the concept of industry. In the Atlantic region it is extremely important that we look into a rationalization, a renovation and a rejuvenation of our ancient industry of agriculture. Much remains to be done in that field. Coming from the leading agricultural province, not only in the region but in the country, I hope that we will get a prominent agriculturist on the board. According to the newspapers I have read, from which I get a great deal of information about the present government, I have learned that we will get two members out of the 11 from Prince Edward Island. I hope one of them will be an agriculturist. Much can be done to update and to upgrade the ancient industry of fisheries. In the province of Newfoundland much good work has been done by the provincial government, of course with great assistance anticipated from the dominion government. I suggest that these two aspects be not overlooked, and I am not ignoring the industries which were mentioned earlier by my colleagues, those of lumbering and mining.

May I reiterate, Mr. Speaker, what I said before. I think it would be far better had the board, which was so well constituted, been given an opportunity to do some work. I regret that the men who were selected, having such tremendous capacities and capabilities, will now be relegated, and I am sorry that the government has decided on limitations both of time and of finance. I have expressed that point of view before and I feel that many people in the Atlantic provinces are also concerned about it. But we want to make the best we can of what the government desires to do for the Atlantic region. I should like to commend the government for doing more than it did earlier when it was in office for 22 years. Perhaps in its short tenure of office it may accomplish more than it did in 22 years, and with all the compass points showing now, their present tenure will be rather brief.

**Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Pictou):** Mr. Speaker, I have a few remarks to make on Bill No. C-80 which is before us. First of all,