

entrepreneurial spirit of Atlantic Canadians, lack of confidence in the ability of Atlantic Canadians to make decisions good for Atlantic Canada. That is what it is showing the people of Atlantic Canada. The Liberal Party is showing Atlantic Canadians that it is not prepared to accept reality, not prepared to face the fact that what it has done over the years has not worked in Atlantic Canada and that there are chances in Bill C-103 for greater success and economic development in the Atlantic provinces.

I think it is time Liberal Members of the House of Commons stood up to the old-line leadership, coming from the Senate. They should stop playing partisan games at the expense of Atlantic Canadians and their opportunities. They should realize that the division taking place in DEVCO is just what was asked for by the advisory committee in September of 1985. The Industrial Development Division will go to Enterprise Cape Breton. The Vice-President will be located in Sydney, and there will be a separate board, prepared and willing to make decisions to benefit Cape Breton. DEVCO will still retain its mandate with respect to the coal agency and the work it has to do in Cape Breton, work that was done successfully in the past. They have to recognize that this is one stop shopping to avoid the duplication and confusion that exists and surrounds past government policies as they relate to Cape Breton and its economic development opportunities.

I think it is time that the Liberal Members of this House recognized that Bill C-103, with the creation of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the creation of Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation, is beneficial to Atlantic Canada and to Cape Breton. ACOA is good for Atlantic Canadians. Yet we are hearing today, as we have heard in the past, members of a certain Party standing up and saying that they are not in favour of what is good for Atlantic Canadians. They will have to answer to the people from the eastern part of the country who feel that ACOA offers a number of opportunities for Atlantic Canadians, opportunities for Atlantic Canadians to take advantage of federal government programs to complement the entrepreneurial spirit that exists in Atlantic Canada. They will have to answer to those people. They do not have to answer to members of the other place. They will have to answer to the people of Atlantic Canada when they say: "Why did not the 19 of you support the creation of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency?"

● (1540)

I urge all Members of the House today to join in favour of this resolution to indicate to the other place that we do not accept what it has done, that what it has done is beyond its mandate and that it is not good for Atlantic Canada.

Mr. Binns: Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to listen to the remarks of the Hon. Member for Moncton (Mr. Cochrane) which he made in regard to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. However, I was somewhat distressed to find that he feels that the Liberal Members of this House were not supporting the agency, and he was questioning why. I am

Government Organization Act, Atlantic Canada, 1987

wondering if the Hon. Member could tell me whether he is surprised that the Liberal Members in the House are not standing on their own feet in support of the agency instead of taking their cues from the Senate Leader, Mr. MacEachen.

Mr. Cochrane: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Hon. Member's question. I guess I am surprised, although I know the temptation of that Party to go along with its leadership, which for years cracked the whip and kept its Members submerged under the previous leadership of that Party. However, I am surprised that they were not able to throw off the yoke of the old-line leadership and take away the partisan politics and recognize what is good for Atlantic Canada. They were not able to see beyond their smoke-filled back rooms and their bagmen to recognize that this agency offers Atlantic Canadians an opportunity to take advantage of federal government programs, create employment and allow Atlantic Canadians to capitalize on what the improved economy of the country has to offer.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment the Hon. Member for Moncton (Mr. Cochrane) for a very impassioned address. I like to hear Members speak on behalf of the people who elect them, irrespective of what side of the House they are on. I want to congratulate the Hon. Member.

This question really focuses on the other place. It shows that the other place did something that it had no authority to do. It illustrates very definitely what we were trying to correct when I had a motion before the House for the creation of a Triple E Senate.

The present Senate is responsible to nobody. It can do anything that it likes and still get away with it. As the Hon. Speaker said the other day, it acted without authority. It does not have to account to anybody.

This demonstrates very definitely that if we are going to have a Senate, we should have one that is elected and responsible to somebody in that it would have to answer to the people. The present Senate is not doing that.

The second part of the motion which I moved would have given every province equal representation. In other words, the four Maritime provinces would have equal representation in a Triple E Senate, just the same as any other four provinces. That would have given them protection for something that vitally affects their region.

The action of the Senate in this particular case illustrates very definitely why we need a Triple E Senate.

Mr. Cochrane: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate what the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) has said. It reminds me of an old saying which I have heard quoted a number of times with regard to the Senate and its efforts to thwart the efforts of the House of Commons. It is that even a fish cannot get caught if it keeps its mouth shut.

The more we see this type of action taken by the Senate, the more we see Senators defying the elected Members of the