

*The Budget—Mr. Flemming*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Bécharde):** Does the house give unanimous consent?

**Some hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Mr. Flemming:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and hon. members. I assure you I will only be a few minutes.

I said we could not accomplish anything with the old government and did not accomplish anything until we got a new government on June 10, 1957. From then on things were different. The government sponsored a bill to assist in obtaining cheaper power for our industries. On the financial side the Atlantic provinces adjustment grants came into existence.

At this point I wish to pay tribute to the prime minister of those days who was the best friend of the Atlantic provinces ever to occupy that position. I refer to the right hon. member for Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker). He initiated the Atlantic provinces special adjustment grants which added \$25 million per year to the revenue side of the four provincial budgets for the period 1958-62, a total of \$100 million over four years. Then provision was made for an annual increase of \$10 million and for \$35 million annually for the next five years. A total of \$175 million was approved. The division among the Atlantic provinces was on a 3-3-3-1 basis.

The second period was 1962-67. Then came the Atlantic Development Board, the legislation being finalized late in January, 1963. I do not know whether hon. members realize what special adjustment grants meant to the budgets of these small provinces, but I speak with great knowledge when I say that it was a tremendous shot in the arm.

The concept of the Atlantic Development Board was to assist in examination and research of hitherto undeveloped resources in the Atlantic provinces. No special amount of money was voted. The Liberal opposition of that day made a lot of fuss about that, but the reason was that the total resources of the country were to be available for development of any duly qualified underdeveloped resources. Subsequent to research and examination, and if approved by the board, application would be made to the government of Canada for assistance in developing the same. It is under this heading that the development of the tidal power of the Fundy tides should come.

Last evening a resolution was presented by my friend, the hon. member for Cumberland-Colchester North (Mr. Coates), asking for

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government consideration of this tremendous project under which it is proposed to harness the Fundy tides, the greatest in the world, which ebb and flow twice every 24 hours and have a great potential through the use of reversible turbines. This is the type of thing the Atlantic Development Board was to investigate.

We also have low grade manganese in my area around Woodstock. We also have the tin of Charlotte county, the only known deposit of tin in Canada, but apparently not rich enough to justify development without some help. That is what the Atlantic Development Board was in my opinion set up to do.

In the initial stages both these developments might need government assistance. That type of thing was the concept of the Atlantic Development Board. It was likewise the concept that the board would operate in conjunction with provincial governments and private industry. This is the type of co-operative action which has brought about the establishment of the largest food processing plant in Canada, McCain Foods, located at Florenceville in the county of Carleton. We all take pride in their accomplishments and activities which are now world wide. This has taken place although it was not supposed to take place on account of its location. This is the result of the principals being private industry which could see a vision for the future.

We have heard a report that the board may be advisory only in the future. I hope this is inaccurate, but should it be deemed to be advisable by the government I for one would be glad and prepared to co-operate with the minister of regional development in whatever he may consider to be necessary to stimulate the economy of the Atlantic region or any other region, for that matter. I have read the minister's speech delivered to the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council at Halifax on November 29. It is my suggestion that he did not emphasize private industry enough in that speech. The Atlantic Provinces Economic Council never had any public funds to any extent. This is a private industry or enterprise instrument which could be used to ensure good value for every dollar. The foundation for development is in the hands of private business and all they need is encouragement from the government.

At this point I want to express my appreciation to the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development (Mr. Marchand). I am sure the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis) will