

*Supply*

Scotia. What is needed is a completely different regional development policy. It seems to me that some of the capital from central Canada must flow into the regions. The Minister can read my speech in *Hansard* as I will be offering him some suggestions on how he can do that.

The motion of the Hon. Member for Hillsborough (Mr. McMillan) criticizes the DREE program. He says that the Government's gutting of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion has been a failure. In principle, the idea of changing the Department of Regional Economic Expansion was not all that bad. The notion of spreading the problem throughout all departments of government because it was everyone's problem rather than having one ghettoized department was basically a good notion. It had some potential on paper. However, we must understand what the Government has done with the DRIE program. The Government has in fact created a way to pump money into Liberal seats in central Canada. It has created a way to increase grants in a political fashion and a way to pump money into seats that could be won in central Canada. The way the program has been implemented has been the real tragedy for the regions.

The Government changed DREE to DRIE in order to give Liberal incumbents a better chance by putting more money into their constituencies. Once again, those moneys have been concentrated in central Canada. The Government says that this is being done because different constituencies have different disparities and that is the way to give them money. However, this results in more money being channelled in a very political way. The DRIE program has been the most political of all programs and that has been its great failure. It has been a boondoggle patronage program. That is the sad thing about it.

The Hon. Member for Hillsborough correctly pointed out that regional development was a high priority of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) when he assumed office in 1968. However, that priority became warped and was then used for political patronage. From what I can gather, the people in Atlantic Canada should know something about political patronage. I am not from Atlantic Canada and I do not say this in order to downgrade Atlantic Canada, but it seems to me that successive Liberal and Conservative Governments have governed Atlantic Canada through the most gross forms of patronage and with the least amount of planning over the years.

I would like to say a couple of words about the speech of the Hon. Member for Hillsborough. He said that living in the regions of Canada was like living in a different country. I am glad that within that statement he included not only Atlantic Canada but western Canada as well. As a westerner, I can sympathize with that. We sometimes feel as though we are being treated almost as second-class citizens and foreigners in Canada. That has been one of the greatest failures of the Prime Minister's years.

There have been some successes in bringing the French language and the French fact to Canada and in giving it some real influence and power in Ottawa. I consider that to be the

great success of the Prime Minister's years. However, one of the great failures of those years has been the increased alienation of the regions. It is not difficult to figure out why this has happened. The Government's policies have lumped all of the money in central Canada. In a moment I will discuss how some of the Atlantic regions have been hurt by that.

The Hon. Member for Hillsborough said he wanted to be fair. I would put a question to him about social Darwinism or the survival of the fittest. I do not know where he has been lately but he should listen to some of the dinosaurs in his own caucus. Day after day, Hon. Members like the Member for Assiniboia (Mr. Gustafson) and the Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor) get up to speak. The Hon. Member for Hillsborough should listen to them. If he did, he would understand the kind of neo-conservatism that promotes the survival of the fittest companies without government intervention. That will not work in Atlantic Canada.

The Conservative Party advocates certain policies, but what are those policies? Conservative members wanted Senate reform for regional economic expansion. Although the Hon. Member did not mention it, that was one of the offerings of Conservative members. It has been mentioned in the past that Senate reform will somehow solve our regional problems. It seems to me that that will not solve anything.

Another suggestion made by the Hon. Member for Hillsborough was that the chairs be changed, as it were. He suggested that if we throw out the Liberal black hats and put in the Conservative white hats, it will suddenly make a great deal of difference. The reason I put the question of free trade and John A. Macdonald's policies to the Hon. Member is that it seems to me that over the years Conservative policies if anything have hindered the development of Atlantic Canada.

I would like to say one more thing about the Hon. Member's resolution. He bemoaned the lack of federal-provincial co-operation. We all want to see federal-provincial co-operation. Alexa McDonough, the Leader of the New Democratic Party in Nova Scotia, said that provincially and federally the NDP is committed to regional development based on co-operation controlled by and for the people of Atlantic Canada. This has been said by a number of people in a number of ways.

Since I do not come from Atlantic Canada, perhaps I can afford to be a bit more frank in this debate than some of the other Members. As I see it, the problem with federal co-operation with Atlantic Canada is that the provincial governments in Atlantic Canada are such bad governments.

**Mr. McMillan:** Oh, come on.

**Mr. Waddell:** They are very poor governments. They have never had very much of a concept of planning. Many of their policies are strictly based on patronage. I am not being holier than thou. I know we have not had the best governments in the world in the Province of British Columbia. To be frank, I would like to see regional co-operation and federal-provincial co-operation. However, when we have that kind of co-operation with the present governments in Atlantic Canada, we end up with worse programs. I believe the record will show that.