

Atlantic Development Board Act

with Nova Scotia. By any standard of measurement, industrial development in Nova Scotia since 1957 has been outstanding and spectacular. A new, aggressive spirit has been demonstrated by business and industry. More than 31 new plants have located in our province during the last six years. The *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* printed a special edition on January 8, 1963, called "The new Nova Scotia" and its industrial review and forecast gave an encouraging outline of the development which has taken place. Since that date, a new automobile manufacturing concern which will initially employ over 250 people has been opened in Dartmouth—

An hon. Member: What did the federal government have to do with that?

Mr. Crouse: The federal government provided the Atlantic provinces adjustment grants. If the hon. member had been listening he would have heard me say that Industrial Estates was set up by the use of some of this money. In addition, the federal government, represented by my hon. friend from Digby-Annapolis-Kings (Mr. Nowlan), made concessions to this plant so that it could ship its products right across Canada. This is an entirely new development, something which never happened under a Liberal government.

An hon. Member: It could have been done anywhere in Canada.

Mr. Crouse: Certainly, and under another government it would probably have been done somewhere else. But under a Conservative government it was in the Atlantic provinces.

A \$6 million fish plant is under construction in Lunenburg; a new carpet factory is planned for Truro, and a new aluminum can company for Kentville. On Friday, June 14, a \$12 million cement plant was announced for Truro. When in operation, this plant will employ 100 men, and fuel consumption will be between 40,000 and 50,000 tons of coal per year. No less than 15,000 tons of limestone will be required annually. This indicates the type of industrial revolution which is under way in Nova Scotia. When one adds to this the continued boom in our shipbuilding yards as a result of our shipbuilding subsidy program, plus other concrete achievements such as the restoration of Fortress Louisbourg and the notable expansion of our fishing fleet, it is possible to realize the progressive impact which Conservative legislation has had on Nova Scotia since 1957.

The Secretary of State (Mr. Pickersgill) has told the house it is his intention to show the Minister of Public Works (Mr. Deschatelets) the new structures required by the fishermen of Newfoundland. I hope in paraphrasing it that I have quoted him correctly.

Certainly no one familiar with the industry will deny that wharves and breakwaters are a necessity so far as fishermen are concerned; but I hope that the increase in the membership of the board from five to 11 will not mean that partisanship considerations will overrule economic necessity. We already see this partisanship attitude at work in clause 4 of the bill, whereby the existing members will be continued for one year instead of three, and the present chairman will be continued for a period of two years as a member of the board. This board is now top heavy with Liberals—or it will be, with the governor in council appointing a new chairman. Although Brigadier Michael Wardell has ample qualifications for the position of chairman, I predict he will be replaced on the coming into force of this amended legislation. This change may not have too serious an effect on the operations of the board, provided the new chairman is a man holding an unbiased interest in the development of the entire Atlantic area.

An hon. Member: Like the present one.

Mr. Crouse: The Secretary of State, I submit, should use his influence to help retain its present chairman, who has made such an outstanding contribution to the development not only of New Brunswick but of the entire Atlantic area. However, in view of the partisan attitude already evidenced in this debate, I express the hope that the two Atlantic provinces governed by Conservative premiers will be given equal consideration with the two provinces governed by Liberal premiers, when important development projects are under review. Personally I will not be satisfied until I hear that the original members of the board are permitted to serve the term for which they were appointed.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I express my concern over the fact that the bill states the act will terminate on January 24, 1969. At this time we have no yardstick to enable us to determine the rate of development of the Atlantic provinces between the present date and the date in question. If the growth under former Liberal governments is any indication of the progress to be expected, it may well be that our development will be rather slow. I also wonder whether the provincial premiers were consulted on this point. In view of the concern the premier of Newfoundland expressed over the transition grant, he may take similar exception to the termination of this bill on a fixed date, and I wonder whether the Secretary of State has in fact consulted with him on this point. When the premier of Newfoundland visited Ottawa recently the Secretary of State kept looking at the gallery as he spoke, and it reminded me of the