

*Atlantic Development Board Act*

sight of that fact, Mr. Chairman. The Liberals, perhaps rightly, are entitled to claim credit for the introduction of family allowances and other measures about which we hear so much. But I think that every schoolboy in the Atlantic provinces will remember that this measure was introduced by the Diefenbaker government. As long as this fact is established firmly in everybody's mind, I do not quarrel with the various amendments that have been made in the original bill.

I have one suggestion that I want to make during the debate on this first clause. I should like to refer to the matter of appointments. I know that some consideration has already been given to this matter, and I know that many members have thoughts on it. I would hope that some person directly connected with the Irving interests in Saint John be included on the board. It may be possible to name Mr. K. C. Irving himself, who is an industrialist who has done ever so much for New Brunswick and the maritimes. I feel that this board should have representation directly from this person or his interests. He has lifted up the economy of southern New Brunswick by his shipbuilding, transportation, oil refinery and other interests, and has always been forward looking in so far as maritime projects are concerned. I merely mention, Mr. Chairman, for consideration by the Secretary of State, who may have responsibility in this matter, that direct representation on this board by the Irving interests be considered. In this way, full advantage may be taken of the known talent available there and the forward thinking that is available.

I do not have anything else that I want to put forward on this clause, except to repeat that I think I will be satisfied if full credit is given to the Conservative government in connection with this matter. They were the ones who started the thinking along these lines originally. I recall that in 1957, when it was decided by the new Conservative government to give financial assistance to Beechwood, the present Secretary of State for External Affairs said that it was going to cause trouble because it was the first time any region had been considered separately. Perhaps this was true, I do not know, but it was that government which brought forward the Beechwood financing plan in conjunction with the then premier of New Brunswick, the present member for Victoria-Carleton. It was accepted by the new government in an honest endeavour to assist an area which needed this type of regional assistance. This is where the matter stands now, and I only hope that the new board will continue the wonderful beginning that was made by the

Diefenbaker government with its plan to set up a regional Atlantic development board.

**Mr. Winch:** May a member of this house from British Columbia, a long distance from the maritimes, be privileged to take about a minute and a half to speak on this measure? All I desire to say is that this bill was introduced in the last parliament by those who now sit in the official opposition. I can see only two differences between that measure and the new bill which is before us. The first one relates to the increase in the size of the board from five to 11 members. I cannot see any reason for the members of the official opposition objecting to that, unless they take the position that they made their appointments on a partisan basis and therefore they do not want to see any change made. If they were not made on a partisan basis, and if they will give to others credit for the honesty they claim for themselves, why hold up this bill any longer?

Then, too, the bill we had before us last year, while good in principle, made no funds available with which the board could function. There is now \$100 million available. Why, therefore, if you are willing to give others credit for the honesty and integrity that you claim for yourselves, should this bill be held up by useless talk of a partisan nature? Why do we not get ahead, pass the bill and let the board start functioning?

*(Translation):*

**Mr. Gregoire:** Mr. Chairman, I should like to state briefly that I agree with the remarks the hon. member for Vancouver East (Mr. Winch) has just made.

We have been discussing this bill since yesterday afternoon and we hear representations which are truly irrelevant. One would think that the Conservative members from the maritimes are trying to block the improvements which could be achieved through this bill.

Consequently, Mr. Chairman, I suggest that we adopt the bill to allow the people of the maritimes to benefit from the advantages that could ensue from this measure.

*(Text):*

**Mr. Churchill:** I would like to say a word or two on this bill, but not along the line suggested by the hon. member for Vancouver East who says that the bill is being held up.

**Mr. Dupuis:** That is true.

**Mr. Churchill:** I hear shouts from the government side that that is true, from the people who are the great masters of obstruction. I think they should sit silent while these things are being considered. The bill