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A.E.A. (pd.)

# NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROCEEDINGS - JUNE 1965

AT THE

NOVA SCOTIA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

TRURO

N. S.



AN INTRODUCTION OF  
THE HONOURABLE G. I. SMITH  
MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMICS

The Honourable I. W. Akerley  
Chairman, Departmental Dinner  
New England Agricultural Economics Council Conference

Gentlemen:

It is a distinct pleasure for me to be with you this evening and to have this opportunity of welcoming the strangers within our midst to the Province of Nova Scotia.

I might suggest to you, Gentlemen, that your visit coincides with one of our most delightful seasons. For this reason, I trust that you will have an opportunity to see something of Nova Scotia at her best whilst you are here, and that you will, accordingly, carry away with you memories which will be sufficiently pleasant as to entice you to visit us once again.

Earlier in this Conference, I know that a welcome was extended to you on behalf of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and the Department of Agriculture and Marketing. I can only say at this time that I heartily subscribe to the welcome extended, and that I would like to add to that, the official welcome of the Government of the Province of Nova Scotia.

I know that it is too late for me to suggest to you that if there is anything that the staff of my Department or, I, personally, can do for you during your convention, that you but have to make your requests known. However, may I suggest to you, gentlemen, that there will be other seasons and other times when you may be in our midst. So I hasten to assure you that any such suggestion which I might have volunteered earlier in this programme will certainly be honoured any time you find convenient to visit this Province of Nova Scotia.

The Province of Nova Scotia has had a long, and an interesting, and an honoured history. Two hundred years ago, we celebrated in this Province the Bicentennial of Representative Government, and it is matter of note that amongst those who formed that first parliament were several men from the New England States. Some of this influence is even of modern times, the immediate past Lieutenant-Governor of this Province, for instance, being a native son of the State of Vermont.

Trade channels between Nova Scotia and the New England States likewise dates back over 200 years. It is said, too, that were a census taken of Nova Scotians in the City of Boston, the figure would be astounding. Students from this Province have completed their education at several of your well-known and highly-regarded educational institutions. Some have remained with you and are now on staff in various capacities. Others have returned to this and to other provinces and are

using their new-found and newly-acquired knowledge to good account in the interests of agriculture and in fields closely associated with this great industry.

All this, Gentlemen, leads me to observe that in this day and age, such conferences as this fill a very useful purpose, indeed. In this day and age, it is said, we are prone to move too fast for our own good. At least, it so appears. We are prone to forget some of the essentials which should bind us together, for our problems - in your country as well as in ours - are very similar. Their solutions are similar; their needs for solutions are similar. Why, then, should we not pool our ideas and our thinking, and reach out for solutions which may be applied equally well within our separate democracies? There may be some minor differences, true, but, Gentlemen, these are not of unsolvable significance.

I know that you have had a very interesting and a very successful conference. I know that out of this conference will come many ideas which will help us to utilize to better advantage our natural and economic resources, and from all this will come a lasting improvement in our respective societies.

I think it only fitting and proper that those in charge of the programme of this meeting should have suggested that the closing address of this conference should be brought by one who is highly-regarded and an acknowledged leader, and by one who has made his mark, as they say, in the fields of Law, in Politics, in Government, and in Statesmanship. Lieutenant-Colonel, the Honourable G. I. Smith, Minister of Finance and Economics, is such a man. His record of achievement is a long and a glowing one and in the course of this record, he has held many important posts in the Government of this Province.

He is credited as being the architect of the programme of Voluntary Economic Planning upon which this Province has embarked, and I can assure you, Gentlemen, that progress is being made along this line and that much of the success which has attended the development of this programme may be credited to the enthusiasm, the support, and the unswerving loyalty which Mr. Smith has for his native Province of Nova Scotia. He is a native son of which this Province may well be proud, and it is my pleasure to introduce him to you at this time. Gentlemen, the Honourable G. I. Smith.

#### MINISTER'S ADDRESS

The Honourable Minister spoke on the organization of the Voluntary Economic Planning Program in Nova Scotia. Reports of the organization are available from the Department of Finance and Economics, Halifax, N. S.