

Adjournment Debate

• (1805)

We believe that to be an incorrect figure. We believe it to be substantially higher because hundreds of individuals have given up and thereafter do not report any longer to the local CEIC offices to register for employment in that they have lost all hope. The need is there, and these jobs would certainly be welcomed in that area of Canada.

The second reason for supporting this project is that there would be a new market for 400,000 tonnes of coal from the Cape Breton Development Corporation. That corporation produces a high sulphur coal. This would be a plus for this particular project and not a negative.

Third, it would be a generator of new business for suppliers of goods and services in the province of Nova Scotia. The capital cost of the project would be \$450 million. There would be new tax revenues from municipal, provincial and federal governments.

Fourth, this is a proven technology. It is the same basic technology chosen by Husky Oil for its \$1.5 billion upgrader in Lloydminster.

Fifth, it is environmentally the most advanced commercial technology for removing acid rain pollutants from coal and oil.

Sixth, more permanent employment would accrue as a result of this particular project than Hibernia, at a fraction of the cost of Hibernia.

Seventh, this project would produce 4 billion barrels a year of high value refinery feedstock for gasoline and diesel and also clean power utility fuels and by-products for pure sulphur.

Eighth, this could be integrated with the Nova Scotia power plant at Point Tupper to provide 150 megawatts of additional power at a rock bottom price.

Ninth, over \$5 million has been invested to date in coal testing and feasibility studies, of which \$2 million has been provided by the Government of Canada and the Government of Nova Scotia.

Tenth, the favourable economics of this particular project would be that capital costs have been reduced by 65 per cent, better economics than the federal government's supported megaprojects in western Canada, where commercial viability is dependent upon existing federal government incentives.

It is essential that if these 10 points are to be realized by providing employment in an area which has high unemployment and by providing a new technology which is environmentally healthy and safe for the residents who live there and elsewhere, it would deplete acid rain in a demonstrable way. If those goals are to be realized, the Government of Canada will have to come forward and support this project fully as it has supported other projects across the country. If it provides the tax credit that this consortium is looking for, most if not all the money will then be able to come from the private sector.

We have the state on the one hand being actively involved in pursuing economic activities for an area of this country which so desperately needs it, coupled with the private sector that will make financial contributions in order to realize this particular goal.

In terms of what is good public policy, this is certainly an example of what is good public policy. I would only hope that government members opposite, and indeed the spokesperson for the government today, would stand in their places and give unequivocal support to the Scotia Synfuels project. It enjoys the support of local municipal governments all across Cape Breton.

Something very unusual has occurred in the province of Nova Scotia as well. On April 18, in the Nova Scotia House of Assembly there was an all-party resolution. It was supported by the New Democratic party finally. It was supported by the Conservative party. The official opposition, the Liberal party also supported it. They all agreed to lend their support to the Scotia Synfuels project. They as provincial legislators realize the value this project could bring to Cape Breton Island in terms of new coal production, and environmentally safe permanent construction jobs. It would assist us in terms of our fight with regard to acid rain.

• (1810)

In conclusion, I ask that government members give serious and active consideration to a positive decision which must be reached and communicated to the consortium prior to the end of May of this year, or this consortium will walk away from the project it has been working at for upwards of six or seven years. I would hope that members opposite will understand the impor-