

Supply—Fisheries and Forestry

The government's fishery policy, or I should say their lack of it, is just another indication that as a nation Canada is living off her fat, when she should be building muscle. In a country where regional disparity is a wasting disease, no province has suffered more from this chief cause of economic anaemia than Newfoundland. No people have suffered more than the Newfoundland fishermen.

I remind the house that during the election campaign the Prime Minister repeated again and again the solemn undertaking to give the people of the Atlantic region a Marshall plan for the development of that area. Now, after six months of stagnation, during which time we have seen the discontinuation of the salt rebate to our fisherman, the discontinuation of deficiency payments to our fresh frozen fish industry, the discontinuation of the winter works program, nothing could be clearer than that the Prime Minister's undertaking was nothing more than another phony slogan in a phony war against regional disparity.

In my opinion this is a grim and foreboding prospect for the people of Atlantic Canada, especially the fishermen of my province. These people see disparity widening, opportunities decreasing, services in danger of being curtailed, population eroding, problems multiplying, provincial and municipal finances strained to the limit, taxes increasing, and a federal government that at least in its first six months of office has been utterly indifferent to the problems.

Before I close, Mr. Chairman, I should refer to the policy of the federal government and the provincial government of Newfoundland respecting centralization in my province. There is in my riding a situation, and I am sure I am not alone in this respect, wherein a large number of people were encouraged to move from their former homes to designated resettlement areas. In the town of Placentia in my riding there are in excess of 100 families who were encouraged by this government, and indeed paid by it to some extent, to relocate in Placentia. While I do not entirely disagree with the principle of centralization, I charge this government with destroying a way of life for a large number of Newfoundland people.

I had the pleasure of attending a meeting in Placentia a few weeks ago. At that meeting were some of the people who were relocated from the various islands. It was the most shocking and terrible experience I have ever had. These people took pride in the fact that

they were independent, industrious, had their own homes and fishing stages, boats and nets. They were moved by the federal government and the provincial government of Newfoundland to an area where they have nothing whatever, where there are absolutely no facilities from which these fishermen can operate. These men left areas where, as I said before, they were reasonably well off. I admit there were a great many disadvantages in those areas. However these people were moved to an area which is in many cases completely unsuitable for fishing. These people, who were once proud, independent, industrious and hardworking Newfoundlanders are now forced to line up, as it were, at the welfare office to receive, as I have said, this soul-destroying means of keeping body and soul together.

Mr. McGrath: Join the just society!

Mr. Carter: If this is the just society, Mr. Chairman, I contend it is one society we can very well do without.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Carter: This government is responsible for destroying a whole way of life for a large number of Newfoundland people. I want to qualify that and make it clear that I do not disagree with the principle of centralization. But I think that before you start to move people from an area, provision should be made to receive them in other settlements, rather than just waving a cheque in front of their eyes and encouraging them to move to an area that is certainly inadequate and unprepared for them. This is a terrible injustice and is certainly not in keeping with the Prime Minister's promise and philosophy, of an end to regional disparity and a just society for all.

Before I resume my seat, Mr. Chairman, I would like to refer to a few problems that exist in my riding. I was quite amazed and concerned when we had the debate the other day and learned that one hon. member—I forget his riding—said on television that he can go to the Liberal caucus and up to a point can threaten the civil service and the ministers to give him what he wants. I would like to get his formula, because I have been a complete flop when it comes to getting things from the government.

Mr. Mahoney: Come over here.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh.