

The Address—Mr. McCreath

Oceans. In the short term we are going to need adjustment.

On March 9, for example, the village of Port Mouton, a village of 800 people, suffered the tragic news that the one and only major plant in that town was being closed—45 full-time employees—and another 150 seasonal employees were put out of work. We have to do that—

An Hon. Member: Free trade!

Mr. McCreath: This has nothing to do with free trade. We need immediately to have an industrial adjustment program put in place. I am pleased to say that on inquiry I discovered that the officials of the Department of Employment and Immigration immediately approached Clearwater to set up that agreement. They are still waiting to hear back. It seems the President of Clearwater has been out of the country since then. I call upon him and I call upon Clearwater to get together with the officials from the Department to get an agreement in place that will help those workers quickly and as soon as possible. I know the Department will move quickly as well in Port Medway.

Shelburne County is another situation. We have over 120 fish plants in Shelburne County. You know, Madam Speaker, you cannot run a fish plant without fish. It would be a simple thing for this Minister to do what certain of his predecessors did and say if you want to fish the ocean out, go ahead and do it. This Minister is too responsible to do that. His responsibility is to preserve that very important resource for future Canadians. That is the challenge he has undertaken. Meanwhile, in the short term we have to be prepared to do the work that will alleviate the difficulties that our people face.

In Shelburne County we have to put in place as soon as possible a Community Futures Program. An application has been put forward. Because, thank goodness, unemployment was not high three years ago, we have not to date been deemed to be qualified. But I know that this program under the Canadian Jobs Strategy has been considerably beneficial to many, many Nova Scotians. For example, in the fiscal year 1987–88 some 700 workers from the fishing sector in Nova Scotia received over \$1 million in assistance through the Canadian Jobs Strategy. Since its implementation, nine areas in the Province of Nova Scotia have been selected for assistance out of the Community Futures Program. I am going to be urging and pressing the Government of Canada to move as quickly as possible to see that we have a Community

Futures Program put in place in Shelburne County as soon as possible.

We want to take full advantage of ACOA. ACOA has been a marvellous thing for Atlantic Canadians. Since its inception in 1987 up until March 17 of this year, ACOA has approved 89 applications from the South Shore. I look to there being at least 89 more this year. This has meant an injection of over \$5 million into our local economy. This money, along with approximately \$22 million from the private sector, has directly created 198 jobs, maintained another 24 and this, of course, does not account for the indirect spin-offs that come. We must be prepared to use ACOA creatively to assist the fishing industry and the communities dependent upon the fishing industry to adjust to the implications of the problem we are going to have in the groundfish industry as we look ahead.

Madam Speaker, I see my time is almost up. I would like to have talked about industries that are booming in the South Shore. Our Christmas tree industry is one. It awaits the implementation of the Forest Resource Development agreement which is critically important in establishing the research necessary to develop that industry.

I would like to have talked about the needs for postal service that my hon. friend opposite talked about earlier. Postal services are extremely important to people in rural areas. I would like to have talked about the maintenance of our rail links for transportation purposes, but those will have to wait for another day.

In concluding, I wish to thank the House for its attention and you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to participate.

[Translation]

Mr. Fernand Robichaud (Beauséjour): Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the Hon. Member who just finished his speech. I must say his French was very good indeed, and I would encourage him to keep up the good work. In fact, I thought his speech was pretty good until he started to talk about fisheries and to establish a connection between fisheries and the Throne Speech. He told us about the problems in his area with fish processing plants and fishing overcapacity. Everybody knows there are serious problems in the fisheries industry along the coast of Nova Scotia, and these problems are not about to disappear in a matter of weeks or months. The Government must take some kind of action to find out what is going on and try to find ways to prevent a situation like the one at the Port Mouton plant which closed its doors, which meant a loss of jobs for the people in that community. It should not tolerate that