

Supply

Government does to Atlantic Canada what it has started to do, then beware, because on your heads it will be.

Mr. Bird: Mr. Speaker, while the hon. intellectual lady from Halifax has given us a literary lesson this afternoon, she did not mention that the federal Budget of April 27, 1989, did not in any way—

Mrs. Maheu: Or the 26th, whenever he read it.

Mr. Bird: Well, you got it both days, as a matter of fact, except that you left the Chamber and decided you did not want to hear the good news.

The Hon. Member did not say that the Budget did not include any reduction in the Atlantic Region Freight Assistance Program which is one of the foundations of regional economic development for the Atlantic region and has been there for many decades. It remains sacrosanct. How is that for a word?

Ms. Clancy: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for Fredericton (Mr. Bird) for his comment and I also thank him for his compliment. Again, I am a little distressed by my hon. colleagues for Atlantic Canada who did not see fit to give up their lunch break today to discuss the problems affecting our region. Those cuts that have not yet been inflicted upon the Atlantic region will unfortunately do so, given the way this Government behaves, and if I can throw in a little Latin, *operatio sequitur esse*, which means, “your manners reveal your being”. I would say that we in Atlantic Canada, will just have to wait for the next load of bad news.

• (1750)

Hon. Roger E. Simmons (Burin—St. George's): Mr. Speaker, I assure you this is going to be debate. A lot of things that I will have to say may well be debatable to some of the people on the other side of the Chamber, judging by some things I have heard this afternoon and during the day.

My friend from Gander—Grand Falls has certainly put his finger on the issue. For the benefit of those opposite who have just dropped in to join us for a few minutes, welcome, that gentleman moved this morning that this House condemns the Government for initiating a series of policies that are causing unprecedented economic

devastation to Atlantic Canada. I have listened with great admiration to the gentleman from Gander—Grand Falls over the years. He has said some astounding and revealing things but always truthful things. I would submit that never was he nearer the mark as today in the wording of his resolution. The “unprecedented economic devastation” that is being wreaked on Atlantic Canada by this Government is the talk of the town everywhere. Tory Members have made such eloquent—I was going to say made eloquent speeches—read such eloquent texts is what I ought to say. Surely they do not believe what they read today.

Surely they have their blinkers on. Surely they did not see the lead story in *Maclean's* Canadian section last week which confirms what the gentleman from Gander—Grand Falls has been saying and what we on this side are saying. It is the whole business of the parent with a young fellow in the military who was out of step. Everybody else was marching to the drum, and the mother decided that her son was the only one in step. Is this the issue? That they are the only people in step? Are all the newspapers wrong? Are all the people in Atlantic Canada who are without jobs tonight wrong? Is it really as good as the gentleman from St. John's East (Mr. Reid) has made it sound? I listened to him today and I actually said to myself for a fraction of a second, he was so convincing, that maybe I read this wrong. So I rushed back to *Maclean's* again to see if I missed a verb or something.

I go to the illustrious *Toronto Star*—I mean, what kind of evidence do you need? *The Toronto Star* tells me as recently as the 27th, just two or three days ago: “It is clear that the big ticket development funds for Atlantic Canada et cetera, are being reduced. It is also clear”—*The Toronto Star* says—they do not want to hear it. Do you have something against *The Toronto Star*? “It is also clear that dozens of regional development agreements with the provinces totalling more than \$1 billion and covering everything from fish to tourism to forestry are in jeopardy”. That is what we are trying to say today.

An Hon. Member: That is wishful thinking.

An Hon. Member: Why don't you do your own research?