

they want to make something, process a product or put new products on the market, we have a program that will help them do that. This is clearly a major pronouncement by our Government in addressing a problem that we know exists. I urge all Members to ensure that this Bill proceeds through the House as quickly as possible and clears the Senate so that this program can be taken advantage of as soon as possible.

We are still operating under old legislation. Some businesses in Atlantic Canada are still unable to do certain things because this legislation has not passed. Once it is passed the Minister and his officials will have more flexibility to meet the needs in Atlantic Canada. Some applications are still not being approved because they do not fit the old industrial development classifications. With this legislation, we will be able to meet the needs and respond to the ideas being developed in Atlantic Canada by Atlantic Canadians. I believe that prosperity in the region will increase and I hope all Members will join me in supporting this legislation.

**Mr. Caldwell:** Mr. Speaker, I want to compliment the Hon. Member on his speech and for being very forthright about previous programs and infrastructures that were drawing some criticism.

Some people will say that we should not put money into infrastructure. I think it is correct to suggest that in the past Governments tended to create regional jobs with these infrastructure programs, calling it regional development or enterprise in the area.

We know that this type of system does not work. We can build the best wharfs, but if there is nothing to put on them there is not much point in building them.

I am pleased that the thrust of this program, according to the Hon. Member, is that if one has an idea that might be of benefit to that particular area, one will have an opportunity to participate in the program. However, one need not bother coming to the corporation with an idea from the past or for a grant to build another wharf. Is that the thrust of the program?

**Mr. Binns:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the support of my colleague. He is correct that we are looking for ideas for new business development that makes sense and can be assisted.

I should point out, however, that the Government has a very ambitious program in Atlantic Canada, indeed across the country, to revitalize wharf facilities. If there is another program this Government has introduced in the last two years that is important to Atlantic Canada, it has been our Harbour Revitalization Program. We have increased what is generally known as the A-base for small craft harbours. We have put millions of dollars in additional funds into a program that would allow us to rebuild wharfs that have been condemned and are no longer safe for fishermen or other vessel owners who use those facilities.

*Government Organization Act, Atlantic Canada, 1987*

The two go hand in glove. Many of our business institutions in Atlantic Canada are fish plants and firms that have to be located on or next to wharfs, first to bring products in from the sea and, in some cases, to export to other areas. Wharfs are very important to the development of Atlantic Canada.

For example, in my riding we face a desperate situation, with many wharfs being condemned. As a result of the Small Craft Harbours Program, new wharfs are being constructed and new projects are being implemented in many fishing communities. In my riding there is presently almost \$20 million in expenditures for new wharfs. That is very important to the area.

I think the two programs are complementary. Certainly, the business component of this is absolutely paramount. If a person has a good idea that will facilitate development, we want to look at it.

● (1700)

**Mr. Manly:** Mr. Speaker, when we are talking about the economy of an area such as the Atlantic provinces, not only to stimulate new development but to protect what we already have, one of the concerns which have been dominant in the House of Commons over the past year has been the refusal of the Government to stand up for Canadian fishing rights in the Gulf of St. Lawrence *vis-à-vis* the incursion of the French into the areas around St. Pierre and Miquelon. I have just received information that a French naval tug has arrested the Canadian fishing vessel, the *Maritimer*, and is presently escorting it to St. Pierre. The Canadian Consulate has been advised and will be meeting the vessel.

I wonder if the Hon. Member, who is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, would care to comment on this failure of the Canadian Government to make very clear our intentions and to stand up for the Canadian fishing industry in a way that would prevent this kind of French chauvinism from intruding upon our historic fishing grounds?

**Mr. Binns:** Mr. Speaker, I can assure the Hon. Member that the Government is doing everything it can to ensure that fish stocks in Atlantic Canada are preserved for fishermen in Atlantic Canada and that they present the most economic opportunity possible to the Atlantic area. I suppose that is why we have a dispute with the St. Pierre area at the present time. We have set a quota for that whole region which we feel will preserve the stocks for the future. The French have not recognized the quota which we feel is important to ensure that the stock is maintained in future years. That has produced the situation we are in today.

We are simply not going to allow overfishing of that stock if it jeopardizes our own Canadian fishing industry in the long haul. Moving into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to which I think the Hon. Member is referring as well, it is our intention, wherever possible, to ensure that the maximum amount of fish is available to Atlantic Canadian fishermen and is processed in