

make money and attract foreign companies to Goose Bay, as it is doing now, so the Government of Canada would make money. They would be paying guests in our country. I suggest that a proposal for a NATO training base in Goose Bay would not only keep our NATO commitment—

● (1550)

Mr. Crosbie: Why didn't you do it?

Mr. Rompkey: We did it. We signed an agreement with the West Germans and with the British. We have the Americans there. We started it, you go farther and create a NATO training base in Goose Bay. If we had stayed long enough, we would have done more.

Mr. Crosbie: We have the Norwegians.

Mr. Rompkey: That is one positive suggestion I can give the Government of Canada. They would help that region and bring new foreign dollars into the country.

The second thing the Government of Canada could do is to set up in northern Newfoundland and Labrador a northern fishery development corporation. The Minister of Justice very blithely says, "If nothing else is done, the Atlantic Accord will make up for everything". I suggest he tell that to people along the Labrador coast. That is absolute, utter nonsense. There will be no immediate pay-off to the people in that area.

What should happen is an improvement to fisheries conditions in that area. A northern fishery development corporation should be set up.

However, let me say what the Government did. We had set aside \$15 million for the northern fisheries development corporation.

Mr. Crosbie: Where was it when we needed it?

Mr. Rompkey: The Minister of Fisheries answered—

Mr. Crosbie: That is poppycock.

Mr. Rompkey: It is on the record. It is in *Hansard*.

Mr. Crosbie: It is not on the record.

Mr. Rompkey: He answered a question in the House and admitted that the \$15 million that we had put aside—

Mr. Crosbie: You left a \$34 billion deficit. That is what you left.

Mr. Rompkey: You read *Hansard*.

Mr. Crosbie: Where is this \$15 million?

Mr. Rompkey: It is all there, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Crosbie: A \$34 billion deficit. You left nothing but IOUs and a \$200 billion debt.

Supply

Mr. Rompkey: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice had his chance—pitiful as it was—but he had it. However, those are the facts.

If the Government really wants to do something for the people in that area, it should put the money back and set up that northern fishery development corporation and give those people a chance. Oil will not be the saviour of the people along the Labrador coast.

Although we have heard that nonsense, I have explained some of the needs that we have. This is a serious motion because the main thrust of the Government so far has been to emphasize the private sector. In emphasizing the private sector and trying to deal with the financial situation in this country, the Government has made certain cuts in programs. I submit that while cuts in certain parts of the country may be realistic, that approach in other parts of the country where the infrastructure and economy are not healthy and the private sector is not strong can be disastrous. It will not create jobs but will lose jobs.

I am looking forward to seeing a realistic and positive approach to the Atlantic area in the upcoming Budget because we have not seen it so far.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments? If not, we will resume debate.

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, it is rather unusual for any Member to be sandwiched between two prominent Newfoundlanders, especially in an important debate such as this. I am not sure precisely how I will fare.

However, at the outset, having listened to the Hon. Member and others, I suggest that between the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) and the Minister of Justice (Mr. Crosbie), they have pretty well discredited this motion. This motion is also discredited by the fact that for most of the time this afternoon members of the Opposition who sponsored it have only had one Member in the House, sometimes two. That is almost as bad as the nine whom they mustered for the very good vote on that famous motion last Friday.

Mr. Crosbie: Let's have a vote.

Mr. Mazankowski: This is a very important motion, notwithstanding the fact that it is inaccurate. I think it provides an opportunity to discuss some very important issues as they relate to the Atlantic Provinces.

I came to this place in 1968. At that time, one of the most important issues affecting Canada was the issue of regional disparity. As a matter of fact, I think it was perhaps one of the more important issues in the election campaign of 1968. I point that out only because it is still an issue in Canada today. The fact that the Liberal Party has sponsored this motion today really reflects on 16 years of absolute failure and economic stupidity. There has been no change. In fact, things have deteriorated.