

*Adjournment Debate*

which it responded to the fire and, particularly, for the very co-operative way in which it was willing to work with the Government of Canada and other jurisdictions.

As you may know, Madam Speaker, the federal government was involved from the very first instance on the day on which the fire broke out. We were able to be present and to monitor water, soil and air emissions throughout. We are continuing to do so. Certainly the good news is that the results to this point in time have been very encouraging.

I would also like to pay tribute to the skill of the fire-fighters who demonstrated that they brought to their task a great deal of expertise. Perhaps to some degree they learned from previous fires which have occurred throughout the country and in the United States. I was encouraged by the results as well.

As I think all members of this House know, the disposal of waste such as the tires in question falls within the provincial government's jurisdiction. Nevertheless, the federal government is very anxious to assist wherever possible, as we did in this particular case.

In addition, we are working with the Council of Environment Ministers, involving all jurisdictions across the country, in putting together an action plan which we hope will ensure that these types of fires are less likely to occur in the future and, when they do occur, that they will be less of a threat to those who live in the vicinity.

Part of the good news relating to the fire in Quebec which has just occurred was the fact that the tires were located in a less flammable manner than that which occurred in a previous fire in Ontario. While I listened with interest to what the hon. member has said in respect of new technology, I think more vigilance on the part of provincial governments and closer adherence to the existing regulations by the proprietors will ensure that storage facilities in the future will be safer than they have been in the past.

The federal government is very actively involved in the search for financially feasible recycling technologies. At the moment we have the capacity only to recycle a small percentage of tires available in Canada. When we look to the future we are going to have to see much more strict regulations in respect of the disposal of automobiles, tires, and parts thereof.

At the moment we are working to try to make such recycling efforts as profitable as possible and to encourage therefore less storage and more use. There is certainly some expense involved in that, but I think the manner in which the federal government and the provinces are working together in co-operation with the private sector will, if not ensure, at least alleviate the problem in the future. We may not be able to guarantee we will not have such fires, but I think we can guarantee that we will be in a better position to deal with them and there will be less danger of such fires because greater numbers of tires will be recycled in the future.

## SCOTIA SYNFUELS PROJECT

**Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond):** Madam Speaker, on May 16, 1990 I put a question to the then Minister of Public Works with regard to the possible support of the Scotia Synfuels project to be located in Cape Breton Island.

At that time the minister responded to my question by giving the same sort of flippant answer that we have been receiving for quite some time: that the matter would be given due consideration and a decision reached at an appropriate time.

I wish to point out for members of the House that this particular project has been in the making for quite some time. In point of fact, there are 10 specific reasons as to why Nova Scotians and indeed Canadians would want to see this particular project proceed and proceed without delay.

The first point is that this would be a major job creator for the province for Nova Scotia. Over 2,000 permanent jobs, direct and indirect, would result if this project would go ahead. Approximately 500 jobs in the construction industry would result for the next three years alone.

It should be noted that unemployment in Cape Breton Island at the present time is exceedingly high. You may be aware, Madam Speaker, that the unadjusted rate in Canada today for unemployment is 7.7 per cent, while in the province of Nova Scotia it is 11 per cent. In the province of Ontario, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 5.3 per cent, whereas in the Island of Cape Breton the official unemployment rate as of April 21, 1990, was 19.1 per cent.