

## [Texte]

renaissance. I say that with tongue in cheek. But the Chairman of the Committee did make quite an impression.

We had the former Mayor of St. Boniface with us who—I say this with the greatest sincerity—made quite an impression. Martin O'Connell, who is the Parliamentary Secretary to you, sir, was impressed with some aspects of the visit and also made quite an impression with his sincerity of purpose. I did not know him as well then as I do right now, having travelled with him for a few days.

It was an impressive trip. It did not have terms of reference to formally receive briefs and make a formal report to the House. However, I think the Committee did get quite an insight into some of the problems facing Atlantic Canada. I do not know exactly what Mr. O'Connell has in mind but I would suspect he will be making a report to you. I think that he understood, and so did the Committee, some of the specific areas that we have been talking about in respect of resettlement, rural redevelopment, fisheries in particular, which has tremendous relevance to your department even though it is under Mr. Davis.

We were most impressed with the visit of the Committee. We got a chance to show them, in Fogo Island in particular, which is in my riding and which you heard me speak about so frequently, some of the things we think we need. I am not referring to a hand-out. We are not that type of people, and I think Mr. O'Connell will agree with this. But we think, with some assistance from your department and perhaps a redefinition of your infrastructure concept and a redefinition of some of the plans which we now have had—some people sort of tend to confuse designated and special areas and growth centres—things will improve. We are interested in looking at our total environment—a rural Newfoundland-rural Atlantic Canada environment. It is a different problem than you sometimes face in central Canada. One thing which came out of the trip was the feeling on the part of the Committee that we have some very specific and special problems.

I hope that Mr. O'Connell in his recommendations will receive a very fair hearing from you, sir, and your department. In that respect I am very confident.

I just want to say for the record that it was a very, very useful exercise. Sometimes we tend to think that these things are junkets and they do not have any relevance, but if you have sincere people—and on your Com-

## [Interprétation]

aura le même succès. Je plaisante, mais ils ont fait une très bonne impression.

L'ancien maire de Saint-Boniface et M. Martin O'Connell, votre secrétaire parlementaire ont aussi créé une bonne impression. Je pense qu'ils ont été impressionnés par certains aspects de la visite. Leur sincérité a plu.

Il ne s'agissait pas de recevoir des documents officiels et de faire un rapport à la Chambre. Le Comité a pu reconnaître certains des problèmes qui se posent dans la région de l'Atlantique. Je pense que M. O'Connell vous fera rapport, messieurs. Il a compris, comme les autres membres du Comité, certains problèmes dont nous avons discuté comme la réinstallation, le développement agricole, ainsi que l'expansion des pêches, qui relève aussi de votre ministère.

Ce voyage du Comité nous a fort impressionné et nous avons fait voir aux membres l'île Fogo, ma circonscription. Ils ont pu se rendre compte de nos besoins. Nous ne voulons pas la charité; nous cherchons tout simplement à recevoir une aide de votre ministère et peut-être une redéfinition de vos concepts d'infrastructure ou de certains des plans que nous avons et qui semblent n'être pas très bien compris par la population comme la désignation des régions, et ainsi de suite. En tout cas, ce qui nous intéresse, c'est de considérer l'ensemble de notre milieu, le Terre-Neuve rural, le Canada maritime rural. Ce sont des problèmes différents de ceux du centre du Canada. Les membres sont revenus de ce voyage conscients des problèmes particuliers.

J'espère que vous et vos fonctionnaires écouterez attentivement M. O'Connell. Donc, ce fut un voyage des plus utiles. On a parfois l'impression que des choses de ce genre ont peu d'importance, mais elles peuvent en avoir beaucoup si les gens sont sincères.