

people from every part of Canada and are certainly the envy of the United States. Would it not be a wise move on the part of the government to develop small craft harbours and launching facilities for small boats in conjunction with the fishing industry, one which is itself an unexploited industry capable of playing an increasingly significant role in the economy as time goes by.

Again, in building up the economy of areas such as Newfoundland or Vancouver Island, care must be taken to put money into search and rescue facilities, services which are closely related both to the fishing industry and, in increasing measure, to the tourist industry because tourists are taking to the sea in ever-increasing numbers. The saving of life is a matter of great concern to any government; it is a subject which cannot be approached in terms of dollars alone. Admittedly an effective search and rescue service is expensive. It costs money to build 65-foot cutters, ships which are able to accommodate helicopters and stay at sea for lengthy periods. When an incident does arise at sea it is important that help should arrive quickly, that a ship equipped with a helicopter can put out in a matter of minutes rather than hours, since a person struggling in the water, especially during the winter months, can survive only a very limited time, and unless help arrives quickly I suppose it can be argued that it is pointless sending any help at all.

Hon. members who come from maritime constituencies are aware of the expenses involved in search and rescue equipment. They are also aware that during a time of monetary restraint it is difficult to pry money from the public treasury for what is basically an unglamorous project, especially when one considers that the majority of Canadians do not live on the coast line. It is hard to convince the people of Quebec, say, or of Ontario or the other inland provinces of the importance of building up an adequate search and rescue fleet. Hon. members will recall, however, that the House did spend a considerable time discussing a subject which involved human life—not on the same plane, admittedly, but certainly a life is a life no matter how it is saved. In one case it might mean imposing deterrence upon certain classes of society; in another it might mean providing a safe and reliable rescue service on our west and east coasts. It behoves the House to spend some time considering this proposal, since in doing so we shall be talking about lives, not talking about dollars and cents.

While on the subject of the way in which the government should spend, or refrain from spending, public money I should like to mention briefly an area which up to now has had more impact upon the city of Ottawa than upon an area such as mine, the riding of Comox-Alberni on Vancouver Island. I refer to expenditure in connection with the location of government departments and related costs of building and so on.

The government has been criticized both in the press and by the Mayor of Ottawa for proposing to move government departments away from Ottawa instead of centralizing them here. As a member of parliament from another part of the country I can only say it would be the height of folly at this time in our history, given all the means of communication we

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have at our disposal, to contemplate having the administration in one central point. It would not matter if one took the Department of National Defence and stuck it at the north pole: you would get exactly the same service as you get now with the department located in eastern Canada, in Ottawa.

An hon. Member: Better.

Mr. Anderson: It might even be better. Perhaps there are fewer distractions at the north pole. On the other hand it is an act of common sense to have the civil service spread out in various parts of Canada rather than being centralized in one place. I might say there are, I am sure, people on Newfoundland and on Vancouver Island who would swear to God there is no government because they never see a government official from one year to the next. They do not hear about government from one year to the next. Ottawa, to them, is just a fairy tale land because it has no bearing upon their lives.

Those who suggest that staff should not be moved from Ottawa because civil servants might be disturbed or because there might be accommodation left over are being unrealistic. I need not tell hon. members from the west that the people of Alberta have a tremendous feeling of empathy with the provincial government. It is something one can almost touch. Their signs are up on the bloody roads.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Order!

Mr. Anderson: The people are aware they have a government. But what do they have in Churchill, Manitoba, or Alert Bay in British Columbia? They don't have a bloody thing to do with the government.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Order!

Mr. Anderson: The only thing we do down here is write laws which cause them problems. That is their only connection with the federal government. I am not thinking about decentralization alone. Taking departments to Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton is equally a waste of time, money and effort. The city of Edmonton does not require any more civil servants and neither does the city of Winnipeg.

● (2020)

If we are to have a federal presence outside the Ottawa area, Mr. Speaker, for goodness sakes let us put it in smaller communities and not provincial capitals. Vancouver has a population of over one million people and there is no point siting the revenue department on the outskirts of Vancouver when, in the city of Vancouver, there is a housing problem and a shortage of land. Both federal and provincial governments have been saying for years that it should be the object of government to move people outside the greater Vancouver area. Yet what does the provincial government do? It wants to construct its buildings inside the city of Vancouver.

What has the federal government done in this regard? If you look at the Vancouver telephone book, Mr. Speaker, you will find page upon page of federal government agencies listed within the city of Vancouver, agencies which should be in