

the minister's attention. During the last two years a program has been developing in Newfoundland called the DREE program. That is not its real name; it is a compounding of the initials of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. The aim of the program is to bring about a change within 20 to 25 years from a rural economy to an urban economy, with 50 or 60 communities in Newfoundland instead of the thousand we presently have.

The basis for this regional development philosophy was the provision of an infrastructure, a word somebody dug up from somewhere which sums up the provision of public services, things like roads, water and sewer systems, schools, industrial parks and the like. The aim was to create an industrial economy in the province of Newfoundland, in the province of Prince Edward Island, in Nova Scotia and in that province which recently went through a period of political renaissance, New Brunswick. Although we have been made aware of this theory of regional development, the problem is that the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council in the last couple of days has taken very serious issue with the regional development philosophy, mainly because the department is de-emphasizing and overlooking the resource base of the provinces right across the nation.

Let me point out why I raise this point. In my province a fishing industry still survives, despite the downgrading over the years of the role of the fisheries. We feel that the Department of Regional Economic Expansion should seriously consider an input of funds to upgrade the fisheries in the province. For example, we feel that in addition to improving marketing, transportation, conservation and resource management and dealing with the problem of overfishing, which my colleague from St. John's West (Mr. Carter) will raise in a few minutes, we should have more sophisticated fishing facilities, bigger boats, better technology and more research in oceanography.

I admit, Mr. Speaker, that for me to suggest this evening that this policy should be revised would not be realistic. Nevertheless, I feel the government would make an excellent beginning by loosening-up its spending in order to provide efficient facilities and alleviate the unemployment problem. I am not one of those Members of Parliament who believe that this kind of emergency measure should be regarded as a long-term solution. I agree with those who declare that this is a band-aid policy. However, I would rather see tens of thousands of my fellow countrymen this winter at least given the dignity of being employed, with the government providing facilities that might in the long run be the stimulus for the development of one of the basic resources in my province.

If the minister were here I would issue a challenge to him. The Minister of Public Works (Mr. Laing) has been a tremendous discouragement to the province in recent years because of his disinterest in fishing facilities. The Minister of Fisheries and Forestry (Mr. Davis) is not in the House this evening, but he too should take a keener interest in this problem. These Canadians who occupy positions of eminence in the federal cabinet should heed

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my pleas. On behalf of 500,000 Newfoundlanders and my Maritime colleagues here, I plead for something to be done in the immediate future to alleviate the problem of unemployment, while at the same time providing worthwhile fishing facilities on the east coast. I am sure I would have the concurrence of all the members of the Atlantic provinces—

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Lundrigan:** —as well as the agreement of the hon. member for Burnaby-Seymour (Mr. Perrault), who this afternoon tried to justify the government's position, coming as he does from the affluent province of British Columbia which is now also suffering a serious unemployment situation, when I suggest that a new input of funds should be made to provide efficient fisheries facilities in the province. I am not talking of a new deck on every little wharf in every little cove, but of facilities which have been required for years. I could give both the Minister of Public Works and the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) a list of a dozen justifiable projects which require immediate action.

For example, since the spring of 1969 the Department of National Defence has been waiting to call for housing tenders in the town of Gander so it can move in personnel to the \$17 million communications centre. The tender has not been called because a bunch of bureaucrats and civil servants in Ottawa do not understand what hardship, poverty and unemployment really mean. I should like all hon. members to stand in their places, even if it means extending the debate beyond ten o'clock, and express their ideas on how the government should act immediately to deal with the unemployment crisis. The situation is getting chronic, though in my province it has been chronic for years. It does not make us feel any better to know that other Canadians are now faced with the same situation. We feel that perhaps we can make other Canadians a little more aware of our problems in Newfoundland particularly and in eastern Canada generally.

• (9:20 p.m.)

I know that hon. members have gone back to their constituencies and talked about the problems in Quebec. The Quebec people are aware of these problems. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) will not tell us what proportion of federal government money is going into the province of Quebec. I know what proportion is going into that province. I do not intend to expose this fact because I do not want to create the impression that I am against the idea that the bulk of the \$60 million announced recently will be spent in Quebec. I am not going to indicate the exact proportion, between \$2 million and \$3 million, of that amount which will be going into Newfoundland, but it is not enough to build a good breakwater.

This minister, along with others, stands and talks about the efforts being made on behalf of the unemployed in Canada. I hope Canadians realize that we, too, have a