

Private Members' Business

• (1730)

There is a fisheries co-op in the maritimes that has received assistance of \$50,000 to identify ways to pull themselves out of some financial difficulty. The list goes on and if I had more time—I realize the rules do not provide me with more time—but there are many such examples. Perhaps other members in the House will address some of those, and particularly with respect to Atlantic Canada.

I think the history of the co-operative movement in Canada is one of partnership, partnership between people who have the capacity and the desire to assist themselves and the federal and the provincial levels of government trying to assist them wherever they can. I think it is partnership that has been working and I would encourage hon. members to join together to ensure that that partnership continues to function in the future as it has in the past.

Mr. George S. Rideout (Moncton): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure as well to join in the debate on this motion. I think that I in particular am very pleased to be speaking on this motion because my community has a very large co-op in it. The Co-op Atlantic, which is the main co-operative in Atlantic Canada, is headquartered in Moncton and it has made a very valuable contribution to our economy.

I believe that when you look at our economy in Moncton it is the proper mix of those types of enterprises, some large—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): I am sorry to interrupt the hon. member. Point of order, the hon. member for Kamloops.

Mr. Riis: First of all, let me apologize to my colleague for a short intervention.

There have been discussions among the parties and I think you would find unanimous consent to pass the following motion.

Notwithstanding any previous proceedings of this House, Bill C-17, an act to amend the Criminal Code and Customs Tariff in consequence thereof be deemed read a second time and passed on division.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): Members have heard the terms of the motion. Is it agreed?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

An hon. member: No.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): There is no agreement.

Mr. Rideout: Mr. Speaker, as I was saying before I was interrupted, Moncton has an economy that has the kind of mix that indicated how well a good positive economy can function and in that the co-op movement makes a very valuable contribution.

As I was stating, Co-op Atlantic is the largest co-operative organization in Atlantic Canada and its headquarters is in Moncton. It employs a large number of people and makes a very substantial contribution to our economy. We are proud of the association that our community has with the co-op movement and with Co-op Atlantic in particular.

If you have ever been to Moncton you can see there are large office buildings on Commercial Street, Record Street, you can see the large buildings on Halifax Street and you can appreciate the tremendous contribution that is being made.

In addition, we have a co-op housing organization called Atlantic People's Housing and, again, that is a co-operative that has made just tremendous contributions in the housing field. They have had a concern for people and they have provided low-cost individual housing and, as well, they have provided good, substantial senior citizen's housing.

In my own neighbourhood there is a large apartment building for seniors. It was erected by the Atlantic People's Co-op and it has done just a tremendous job. In fact, they are always having people trying to get into that particular co-op because of the quality of the building and the quality of the lifestyle. It is a co-operative and people have a say in how it functions. They have input and they have a say. That, I think, is the distinction.

We have also seen the tremendous contribution that credit unions have made to our community and to Atlantic Canada. For that reason we can see the excellent results that the Caisse Populaire, the Desjardins organization in Quebec is having. It is really fuelling the Quebec economy. It has been the small credit unions who know the people, who know the players, who have made those decisions, not on the basis of dollars and cents, but on the basis of people. That is the difference