

### *Borrowing Authority*

going to foster the growing economies of these particular regions but we are going to stay away from the areas where the Government feels it is just going to be too difficult to develop their economies. That is a way of thinking that is completely contrary to regional development. It is completely contrary to the experience in this country over the last few years, and the belief that all areas are entitled to economic prosperity. It is certainly contrary to what the Government told us it was going to do during the last federal election campaign.

Not only is the Government not putting money into regional development funds, *per se*, it is whittling away at the funds of other Departments, funds which would be helpful to regions which have these economic difficulties. small craft harbours, to use one example, which would help the wharves and infrastructure that fishermen need, the funds are practically non-existent.

The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) recently stated he was going to give out four new off-shore lobster licences. One company was going to get two licences and two other major companies were going to get a licence each. These licences were absolutely unnecessary and contrary to most of the advice the Minister received from people in the fishing industry. It was completely opposed by fishermen from all over Nova Scotia. In fact, the Maritime Fishermen's Union is not only asking for the resignation of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, but demanding his resignation, and demanding it over and over again, despite the fact that the Minister has gone to Nova Scotia to try to explain his position. The Government has been trying to soothe the fishermen but they know different. They know it is a blatant political giveaway.

Giving out these licences will eventually harm the inshore lobster fishermen. This is tragic because they are undergoing a time of reasonably good economic conditions. Because of the Government's action in trying to make political cake of the fishing industry, the returns for lobster fishermen will decline, and it is not only happening to the inshore lobster fishermen, it is happening to the inshore fishery as a whole. Quotas are not growing because the stocks are declining. The stocks are declining because of the large vessels offshore.

The people who are being hurt are the inshore fishermen, the numerous inshore fishermen who depend on fisheries for their livelihood. More of the fish are being caught by fewer people and the major companies will continue to harvest the large percentage of fish in Atlantic Canada. What has been in recent years a fairly successful fishing industry is being smothered because of the policies of the Government. Its future is in fact in doubt. I hope the Government will take this into consideration and do something about it.

● (1530)

In my region in industrial Cape Breton the Government has been very unsuccessful. We had a good tax credit program, which meant that some industries decided to locate in industrial Cape Breton. Unfortunately, we have lost more jobs than we have been able to attract. Two heavy water plants have closed. There has been a reduction in jobs at the Sydney Steel

Corporation and at the Cape Breton Development Corporation. Many industries have had to lay off workers or close completely. Most of the jobs that we have received have mostly been in the fast food companies and in major retail outlets. They are not permanent jobs, but merely part-time jobs without benefits.

When the Government took office it stated that unemployment would drop in Atlantic Canada, but it has not. The latest figures from Statistics Canada show that the unemployment rate nationally is 8.1 per cent, provincially in Nova Scotia it is 12.1, and in industrial Cape Breton it is 21.1. That rate was provided by Statistics Canada. With the new procedure of Employment and Immigration, the unemployed no longer go to a counsellor to get advice. They have to go to the job board to see if a job has been posted. If it has, they go to the prospective employer. The counsellors at CEIC no longer meet the unemployed. The only way to know who the unemployed are is through those who receive unemployment insurance cheques or by polling. Certainly, those who are receiving unemployment insurance cheques are not the only ones who are unemployed.

In the areas that have regional economic difficulties, more and more persons have their unemployment insurance expire because they have been unemployed for so long. They are no longer on the records. Many of those people are not bothering to go into the unemployment insurance office because there are no jobs available. What are we doing? We are creating a hopelessness with those people. At a time when we keep saying that we are trying to do so much for Canadians, the Government is actually reducing the hope of so many Canadians.

Not only do they not have jobs, but they are being hurt in other areas. We are cutting back their prospects of getting employment. At the same time programs like RHOP, the Registered Home Ownership Program, have been cut back. Subsidized housing has been reduced. The RRAP program has been cut back. That was a program that was particularly important to older areas in this country where there is high unemployment and economic difficulties. With the assistance given to someone who is unemployed or perhaps an older Canadian who did not have the income available to put into his or her home, they were able to fix up their home and thereby stay in it, which is really what they wanted to do. Without that funding the homes will not be maintained. What will the Government do then? These people will either be without accommodation, or the Government will have to provide government funded housing. That is not happening either. In the future there will be another problem with housing in this country.

The Government has cut back on transportation. The CN Railways are closing rail lines in areas of this country. Quite likely those areas are the areas that are having economic difficulties. There again, the loss of transportation, the loss of rail lines, will make it less likely that those areas will be able to attract industry.