

Let us look at the major industries in my province at the present time. We are told that the offshore holds a great deal of promise. I think that is probably true. Obviously an agreement is imminent. One was talked about and negotiated when the present Government was the Opposition. I hope that that agreement comes to fruition soon. If it is a good agreement for Newfoundland and for Canada my Party and I will support it. However, if that agreement comes into effect and Hibernia does start until maybe in 1989 or 1990, given the world price for oil and all the other factors that have to be considered in starting a commercial development, how soon will those new jobs come? What do we do until then? Even if Hibernia comes into existence it is not going to solve all our employment problems.

Let us turn to a second economic mainstay which may be the most important one for my province; that is the fishery. Fishery Products International is one of the largest companies in the world. It was created when we formed the Government of Canada. I think that company must be given time. That company and that industry is struggling, not just in Atlantic Canada, but all across the country. The marketplace is not sound at the present time. Therefore, our main industry in the province is still struggling.

The inshore fishery which is very important to my constituency in particular has had a particularly bad year. The fish just did not come ashore. No Government, of whatever political stripe, can ensure that. Hundreds of fishermen, through no fault of their own, are not going to be able to get the number of weeks necessary to qualify for benefits this year. Given that fact, I submit that now is not the time to change the system. Now is the time to do what was done before; that is, put special programs in place to help those fishermen who will not receive those benefits, through no fault of their own.

Instead of tightening up on unemployment insurance it seems to me that we have to ensure that that net is in place. However, there has been a toughening of unemployment insurance and, as far as the fishery is concerned, these other measures had been taken. Capital projects which were to proceed, such as the Smokes on the Labrador coast, have been cancelled. The Government is going to cut out the advertising program that was put in place to advertise fish products abroad. Insurance is going to be privatized. I wonder how many companies are going to get into the business of insuring inshore fishermen, their nets, gear and boats. So far there has not been much interest shown. That is why the Government is involved in those activities, because the private sector has not responded. Maybe we will find companies all across Canada suddenly insuring longliners, but I wonder and worry about that. If it does not happen there is going to be a severe burden on inshore fishermen.

Berthage fees are going to be doubled at a time when the fishery has had a particular bad year. Fishermen are going to have to pay more for maps and weather forecasts. All of these may seem insignificant to a large business, but when they are added as a burden to a small inshore fishermen, a small businessman, they add up to a very heavy burden indeed. That

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kind of measure is not going to create jobs in a struggling industry. Rather, it hits the little guy when he is down and needs a hand up. It is going to put massive economic pressure on those who can least afford it.

With regard to the forestry industry, in spite of the fact that our mills in the province are now in good hands and that modernization is underway, technology in and of itself is going to mean a loss of jobs. While the situation is stable in the forest industry, which is the third economic mainstay of the province, jobs have been lost. I do not foresee in the immediate future where those new jobs are going to be created. Yet, we are told that the forestry centre which was to be put in Corner Brook is going to be cancelled. That would have been an alternative for employment in that particular west coast area.

There is evidence in the Speech from the Throne and in the economic statement particularly, Mr. Speaker, that the people in the Atlantic and the North are the forgotten people. I would like to talk about the North for a minute. Consider what has happened to the people up there. The cost of gasoline has gone up. The airport tax has gone up. Bear in mind, Mr. Speaker, that air travel into the North is not an alternative, it is not luxury. It is the only way in and out. I do not know if the Government understands that, but when you live in that particular area the only way you can get out of the Northwest Territories, the Yukon and Labrador is by air. If you increase the cost of gasoline and airport taxes it will place an additional burden on people who already experience the highest cost of living in the country.

As a matter of fact, those measures which have been taken are exactly the measures which the Canadian Transport Commission recommended against last week. In one of the best reports issued by the Canadian Transport Commission it said that to do away with airport taxes and fuel taxes would give the people in the North a break which they deserve and require if they are going to continue to live in the North. If we continue to put that kind of burden on people in the North it will depopulate northern Canada.

What else was done as far as the North was concerned? The moratorium on the taxation of northern benefits which had been put in place is only there for a year. It was my understanding that northern benefits would not be taxed indefinitely, for the foreseeable future, and I understood that to mean for all time. Many of us fought that issue very hard and I can say that we will continue to fight it. The Minister of Finance said this would last only one year, and then he will review it. He said there is a possibility that northern benefits could be taxed at the end of this year. I give notice that I will fight that as hard in the future as I have in the past, because if such a measure were implemented it would depopulate the north, an area that we need to build up.

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Let me talk about the plight of the youth. It is a serious situation all across the country, but particularly in the Atlantic area. In Newfoundland, 50 per cent of all eligible young people are unemployed. In the meantime, a mere \$27 million is