

ly, but I heard no firm contracts mentioned, nor did I hear future sales of Candu reactors mentioned. To the best of my knowledge, the only potential sale on the horizon is the sale of a second reactor to New Brunswick. Of course, there are people who question the wisdom of a nuclear reactor in Atlantic Canada because it has an abundance of tidal power, coal and hydro power available, but for some reason—possibly to support industries in Ontario—there is the possibility of putting a second Candu reactor in New Brunswick.

The story is a sad one. There is no way anybody could fail to sympathize with the people who live in those communities. Early in the debate Senator MacEachen gave pride of place to Newfoundland as the leader in unemployment in Canada. That is a very poor claim to glory in the Canadian confederation, but it is one we have been carrying since we entered the union. Newfoundland's place in the per capita income scale is no greater now than it was when it first came into confederation; that is not to say that confederation has not been good for Newfoundland, because I shudder to think what it would be like down there if Newfoundland were not part of Canada.

Honourable senators, I will not take any more of your time. That is all I have to say.

**Hon. John B. Stewart:** Would the honourable senator permit a question?

**Senator Doody:** Certainly.

**Senator Stewart:** You referred to the difficult decision that had to be taken with respect to the linerboard mill, and seemed to parallel that to the decision to close down the heavy water plants. I am sure that there are similarities with regard to the social impacts, but surely there is a difference when dealing with anything that relates to the whole problem of energy. Energy is an unpredictable field. We are living in an energy situation which changes every year—at least it has been changing every year since 1973.

If suddenly—who can predict?—the international price of oil moves upward again, the whole question of energy reactors will become lively, although I am sure there are people who would regret that. You have said that there comes a time, regardless of social impacts, when hard decisions have to be made. If that is true, why is AECL not being virtually mothballed itself?

**Senator Doody:** That is a good question.

**Senator Stewart:** If the heavy water plants are being closed down and dismantled, why is not AECL itself being mothballed?

● (1650)

**Senator Doody:** To speculate on the energy requirements of the future is obviously part of a decision that somebody has to make. If the people in authority in the boardroom feel that they can afford to put several hundreds of millions of dollars more of their money into the possibility of something happening down the road in the energy field, then that is a decision they have to make. They have elected not to do so—certainly for good and sufficient reason.

With regard to the mothballing of AECL, you will get no argument from me on that. It has sustained heavy layoffs to date, and I expect that there will be more to come. I obviously do not know that. I do not really think that AECL is one of the shining stars in Canada's corporate crown, at any rate. If it were to be mothballed, there wouldn't be very much weeping in the streets of Twillingate. The people in Jerrys Nose, Toogood Arm, Sunday Cove Island, and all of the others would not really be too disturbed about that. They would be much happier to see an infusion of cash into the fishing industry of the area.

**Hon. Finlay MacDonald:** Honourable senators, by way of a preamble to my question, I will point out that, while my designation is Halifax, I am a Cape Bretoner. There are a few of us in this chamber, Senator Murray, Senator Muir, Senator John M. Macdonald, Senator Graham—and Senator Marshall who was born there. I don't know who else I may have missed.

**Senator Roblin:** Senator MacEachen.

**Senator MacDonald:** Yes, of course; we are all Cape Bretoners, and I think we would want to associate ourselves with some of the remarks of Senator MacEachen.

There were many former distinguished members of Parliament who represented Cape Breton well. My father was a member of Parliament for Cape Breton South in the late twenties and thirties, during which time the economic situation was not really much worse than it is now. I visited Cape Breton a few weeks ago, just before the Honourable Sinclair Stevens came down to make the announcement. I served for some years as the president of Nova Scotia's Industrial Development Corporation and had some experience in trying to attract industry, both in Nova Scotia and in Cape Breton, working with Devco.

I share with Senator MacEachen his skepticism of plans, be they government sponsored or be they expressed with respect to government programs such as DRIE. I have attended the openings of plants and have shared in the joy that went along with the realization that 25, 30, 40 and 50 people were being employed. I have also been there three years later with the receiver. I know a little bit about that. I also know about the stupid way in which we go about preparing a community for a shutdown, without any regard for the social impacts upon the people in the area.

I pray to God that the new task force for Cape Breton will succeed. I think it should have all the help it can get, although I have some strong views as to whether or not it can accomplish all of its work in such a short period of time. If I thought that there was any way in which this inventory could, in a number of years, be utilized—if I thought that there was some realistic hope that the people living in the area could pin their careers on—I would be the first to support the proposition of Senator MacEachen. I am sure that all of us from Cape Breton would join with me in that support.

My question is: Is it realistic to hold out that hope?