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who are out of work in Atlantic Canada today are out of work because of previous policies that did not take hold.

I am a little surprised to hear the tone of the remarks of the Hon. Member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Baker). It is that old Liberal ploy of always assuming that it is a "foreigner", as they like to call them, who is causing the problems. If there has been any overfishing or any misuse of quotas, we are the first Government to champion the Canadian right to resist whatever that wrong has been. I suggest that it is totally wrong for a Liberal spokesperson to stand up in the House and pretend that the problems all come from some foreigner, as they suggest, as opposed to some of the misdirected policies that their colleagues put in place when they had an opportunity to govern.

It was interesting to note how the Hon. Member's speech dealt mainly with the fisheries question, which is of great concern to all of Atlantic Canada. In particular, he seemed to dwell more on the Newfoundland situation than on the four provinces generally. However, I notice that he never once mentioned Fishery Products International. That company is a main employer in the fishing industry in Newfoundland. He did not refer to it and surely Hon. Members must have wondered why.

If the Hon. Member really has the concern of fishermen in Newfoundland at heart, as he professes, why did he not make some reference to the main employer? I can suggest why, Mr. Speaker. It is because that company, when the Government left power, was in an utter disaster. The workers were on strike, the fishermen were not fishing and the processors were not employed. It did not have a chief executive officer and virtually no board of directors. In short, it was the worst example of what the Hon. Member refers to as indifference and negligence in a corporate activity that I have ever witnessed.

I am pleased to say that one of the first challenges that we accepted was to sit down with the Government of Newfoundland in an attempt to put this company into a viable position. We agreed that not only did we have to put up an equity of approximately \$25 million to overcome some immediate problems, but we had to find a suitable chief executive officer and a good board of directors for him to work with. Their job was to try to make peace with the labour unions and get people back to work and hopefully get Fishery Products International back into business on a viable basis. I am pleased to inform Hon. Members of the House that we have done that.

Vic Young is an excellent chief executive officer. We intend to support him. He is backed up by one of the best corporate boards in the entire nation. I am pleased to say that settlements were reached with onshore workers and the fishermen themselves. The company is back to work.

I say this in order to put this debate into perspective. It is not only a question of our being able to get Fishery Products International working again because there are many similar situations in the Atlantic area which we inherited and which needed very immediate attention. Devco is another example which I will refer to later. As a result of some of the actions we

have taken there is new hope for that company today. Yet the previous Government had absolutely no hope for those people. Our Government has begun to restore Devco and I will give good news about Devco later on. I know that Hon. Members will be very interested to hear it.

Again, we have an example of a Crown Corporation that was left with virtually no board and no senior executive officer by a previous Government. This company, with the mining of coal as one of its principal activities, had a senior executive officer who knew nothing about coal mining. The Opposition has the audacity to walk into the House and propose a motion dealing with indifference and negligence with respect to Atlantic Canada. I notice that the Hon. Member is even giggling now, as he looks into the House. As far as I am concerned, that record will hopefully set the facts straight. Those are the hard facts and the business facts.

Let us talk about specifics. I have referred to Fishery Products International and I have referred to the Liberal inability to oversee this enterprise which is so important to Atlantic Canada. Last year it meant a disastrous strike that lasted 180 days. People were out of work not only in the plants but in the fishery itself. It is no wonder that there was no permanent chief executive officer for over 12 months. In short, the prior Government offered no support to the company.

Since we have taken office we have put in a strong chief executive officer and the board to which I have referred. That board is made up of people such as Anthony Wright, President and Chief Executive Officer of Newfoundland Power Company; Paul Desmarais, Chief Executive Officer of Power Corporation; Bill James, Chief Executive Officer of Falconbridge Nickel Mines Ltd.; Howard Hawkes of Bache Securities and Frank Stronach of Magna Corp. With the work of Vic Young and a board of that calibre, I know that we will be pleased with the result.

Let me deal with the situation of National Sea Products. As Hon. Members probably know, the Government of Canada owns about 20 per cent of that company. Perhaps it has been noted in today's paper that the net profit in the last quarter ended March 1, 1985, was 40 cents a share in that company as compared with a loss of 25 cents in the same quarter last year. That is good business. That is getting that company back to a viable level. That is what we intend to do.

For all the talk coming from the Opposition benches about grants, subsidies and all the rest, let us never forget that the real bottom line is getting people back to work in this country, especially in Atlantic Canada. When we talk about doing more in the private sector, creating the atmosphere and essentially creating jobs, that is our objective. I know that all our Members, as far as the coming Budget is concerned, are going to take new hope when they hear some of the measures that will be proposed to get Canadians back to work once again.

● (1240)

This is not a time, as the Opposition benches seem to love to foster and dwell on, for doom and gloom. This is essentially a time for new hope, to be taking a look at opportunities and not