

disputed zone. We also condemn the Government of Canada for its handling of this entire dispute with the Government of France. This demonstrates the attitude of the federal Government toward Atlantic Canada. I just wanted to mention that because I think it is important, and everybody should realize that right now there is another six or seven minutes left before the vessel ties up. The Government notified the Honorary Consul General, who is perhaps watching what I am saying here in the House. That was the Government's action. There is television hook-up there and he is probably watching me now because he has to go to the port in another seven minutes. His instructions from the Department of External Affairs are to look at how the crew members are being treated.

Just imagine, Mr. Speaker, that is the action of the federal Government, namely, to notify the Honorary Consul General to go down to the wharf in six minutes time and watch this vessel being hauled forcibly into port and watch the crew members being taken off the boat and taken to what I am sure will not be a hotel. We all know what the French Government said about our jails in St. John's, Newfoundland. However, I will know what is going on tonight because I will be speaking to the crew members anywhere between ten to twelve o'clock. I will report on it in the House tomorrow while our motion is being debated.

Getting back to the Bill, there is not one mention of fisheries in it. In the entire Bill that deals with opportunity for economic development in Atlantic Canada there is not a single mention in the Bill of fisheries. There is not a single mention in the Bill of primary resources. There is not a single mention in the Bill of agriculture. There is not one single mention in the Bill of infrastructure. In fact, Mr. Speaker, when we say infrastructure we mean roads, water and sewage systems and the things that are lacking in Atlantic Canada today and which need some attention paid to them. Here is a Bill through which the Government of Canada will spend \$1 billion, but there is not a single mention of those items.

We have highly paid people in charge of this Atlantic Opportunities Agency. About 110 of them are working for it. They are fine people, doing an excellent job—they must be because they can make over \$100,000 a year. Where can you find a comparable salary scale in the present federal bureaucracy in Atlantic Canada? I do not know. I have searched. None of the agencies or departments we have have a salary scale that goes over \$100,000 a year.

Mr. McMillan: How many people are there? One?

Mr. Baker: No.

Mr. McMillan: Two?

Mr. Baker: No. I can get the exact numbers, but the majority of people listed are in what is called middle and upper management. That amounts to over 200 people altogether. The middle management salary runs, I believe, to \$75,000 or \$76,000. In other words, I do not care what you look for in the

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federal or in the provincial Government, this is one fine, dandy pay scale for 350 employees.

Mr. Foster: It is more than a provincial cabinet Minister would make.

Mr. Baker: That is right. More than a provincial cabinet Minister would make.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what does the Government do, according to the Bill? We tried to move an amendment to this Bill to force the agency to spend equal amounts of money throughout the region or to try to initiate industry in Atlantic Canada where it was needed. If this agency is just handling applications, do you know where the applications will come from in Atlantic Canada? If you talk about Newfoundland, they will come from St. John's. If you are talking about Nova Scotia, they will come from Halifax. For sure they will not come automatically from Cape Breton Island. For sure they will not come automatically from any of the rural areas where the unemployment rates are the highest.

● (1750)

We tried to impress upon the Government during the committee meetings and through the amendments presented to the House that if the Government is to pay people lots of money, if it is to create a bureaucracy in Atlantic Canada whose members are being paid such wonderful salaries, a great many of them at a hundred grand a year, in poor Atlantic Canada, sitting in an office in St. John's, Newfoundland, then the least it could do is to put in the legislation the demands of these people that the bureaucracy generate the jobs which are needed in the high unemployment areas of Atlantic Canada and not in the cities.

Do you know, Mr. Speaker, that there are more employees of this agency in Ottawa than there are in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, or in St. John's, Newfoundland?

Some Hon. Members: Shame!

Mr. Baker: They even have a vice president here. Oh, yes, the Vice President of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency—we should call it the Atlantic Canada overblown agency—is in Ottawa.

Mr. Gauthier: Is that right?

Mr. Baker: Yes. There are more employees in Ottawa than there are in Newfoundland.

The Government really has a problem. There are so many things that I could bring up about this Bill. Government Members told every Premier that they will not accept any applications for what they call infrastructure, harbour developments, the cleaning up of neighbourhoods, the installation of water and sewer where it is needed or the paving of roads because there are so many unpaved roads—