

Adjournment Debate

their livelihood and to demonstrate to both the federal and provincial governments that they are determined to continue the work that has nourished their community for centuries. The people of Canso are committed to making the deal work and to being able to continue their long association with the sea and keeping the town alive.

The deal that has been worked out is an imaginative and workable deal. It represents a major commitment on the part of both the provincial and the federal government and the companies involved. I wish to compliment the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans for helping to put this deal together. I would like to say as well that I expect the government to hold to the commitment that has been made to the people of Canso and to Cansonians that this deal will ensure a stable future for their community. Cansonians will accept nothing less.

I want to mention that the crisis in the Atlantic fishery is by no means over. There is still a great deal of anguish and hardship throughout Atlantic Canada in many fishing communities as a result of the declining fish stocks and the mismanagement which has occurred in recent years through the fishing industry. The crisis will not be over and we will have to continue to work toward a new arrangement which will allow communities like Canso to grow and prosper.

One of those communities is Lockeport. Unfortunately, the town of Lockeport, which has been in a similar situation to Canso, has not been able to come up with a deal that satisfies the requirements of the provincial government to be able to open its fish plant. That is one community among many that needs to have continuous support, and continued work will have to be made in order to ensure that its industry is preserved.

As the fisheries critic for my party, I am committed to working toward ensuring that fisheries policy ensures the survival of these communities, wherever they may be, and ensures the future of a stable fishing industry.

Mr. Murray Cardiff (Parliamentary Secretary to Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Privy Council and Minister of Agriculture): Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the Government of Canada is committed to assisting the community of Canso which has seen its fish plant close as a result of resource reductions in important Atlantic groundfish stocks.

In May, the Government of Canada announced the Atlantic Fisheries Adjustment Program of \$584 million in assistance for the fishing industry.

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These funds will implement a long-term strategy for the fishing industry and include a short-term adjustment package, with a commitment to spend up to \$130 million to assist employees in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland who were laid off because of declines in northern cod stocks; an additional \$28 million to improve surveillance; \$150 million for rebuilding the stocks; \$130 million for adjusting to current realities; and \$146 million for economic diversification both within the fishery and outside.

These special initiatives are in addition to ongoing federal programs to assist in a workforce adjustment and to attract other enterprises and alternative employment opportunities to Atlantic Canada.

The National Sea processing facility at Canso was closed as a result of northern cod quota reductions. Canso is therefore eligible for assistance under the short-term adjustment package. Of the \$130 million available under this initiative, \$26.7 million have been projected as required for Canso. These funds will be available over the four year period to 1994 on adjustment measures such as training programs, community development initiatives, and other measures.

The Atlantic Fisheries Adjustment Program includes \$146 million to foster diversification within the fishery and to promote alternative employment in areas affected by quota reductions and stock depletion. Canso is also eligible for assistance under this initiative.

In addition, on August 10, 1990, the Government of Canada announced support for the Seafreez proposal which the member spoke about. This initiative will protect and maintain 500 jobs at the Canso plant. It is great to hear that it is starting in operation again. Certainly it sounds as though by mid-November, by what the member was saying, it is going to be operational and quite a number of people will be working. It is rewarding to see something like this happening and that plant being utilized.