

*Regional Development*

west to find employment. We prefer to see more of our young people stay and contribute in their own province of Nova Scotia.

The hon. member for Cape Breton-The Sydneys (Mr. Muir) is in his place and is aware of the program we are operating particularly in Cape Breton through the Cape Breton Development Corporation. Hon. members opposite can knock regional development if they want to, but there is no one who would knock the concept of the Cape Breton Development Corporation and what it is attempting to do to stabilize the economy of Cape Breton Island. Were it not for Devco, as it is called, financed from funds of the department—and financed handsomely this year—the future outlook for industry in the hon. member's constituency would be bleak indeed. However, with the funds made available through the corporate structure the future is not entirely without hope.

**Mr. Deputy Speaker:** I regret to interrupt the hon. minister, but I must advise him that his time has expired.

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I listened with interest to the minister telling us how beautiful things were in Nova Scotia, how everything was functioning in a well organized way and how all this was possible because of the financing available through the department whose affairs have been the subject of so much comment during this debate.

It is interesting to note that the province from which I come, British Columbia, also received some grants under the DREE incentives program. I believe that of the total amount of money allocated under that program over the last two years, one half of one per cent was available to industry in one part, and one part only, of the province of British Columbia. We are glad to know that we are able to contribute something, probably, to the re-election of the minister in a riding which embraces one of the special areas to which everyone is so generous. That is, if he does not get to the Senate before then.

**Mr. MacEachen:** No chance.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** Because of the limitation on the time available to us I shall refrain from making extended comments about what the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand) had to say. I will only mention that after watching his performance this afternoon, the arm-waving, the histrionics, the sound and the fury of his presentation, I am convinced he is a great believer in the concept that when you have a poor case you should cover it up with a lot of noise. This is precisely what the minister did.

It has been argued that DREE has no strategy, no concept. I think it has. The basic concept is that of providing a great big barrelful of money. All anyone in industry has to do in order to get his hands into the barrel and get some of it is make an application. Just help yourselves! Government, supposedly there for the purpose of serving the interests of Canada, has set this up as an agency to respond to the requests of industry. Surely it should be the other way around. Surely industry should be required to respond to the requirements of government, because government is supposed to represent people.

[Mr. MacEachen.]

I think this was well illustrated by the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion himself when he talked about Union Carbide moving out of the country, out of Welland, if the department did not step in and do something. Mr. Speaker, who is running this country, Union Carbide or the government of Canada? Who was elected to run the show, the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) and his cohorts in the cabinet or Union Carbide? I have the impression that Union Carbide is calling the shots and that the government is knuckling under and responding. This is what is wrong with the whole attitude of the government as reflected particularly in the actions of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion.

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Some years ago we believed in the concept that the purpose of government was to serve the people; that we would combine together to elect a government to do things for us collectively that we were not able to do individually. That is the way it was supposed to work. The political party heading the government of Canada today has for a number of years told us that that concept is wrong. What this government says is that the purpose of government is to create an atmosphere within which the capitalist system feels comfortable and then the benefits will come in a second-hand way back to the people.

Is the purpose of business to create employment? Certainly not. Business has no interest in creating employment, in providing jobs. The objective of business is a very simple one. As any businessman knows, it is to make a profit, to exploit resources, to exploit an area, to exploit the people in that area and the workers working within that particular industry. And all for the purpose of making a profit. The government has told us that that is a valuable thing today.

That is the strategy of the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, simply to let itself bend to the whim and will of industry itself, to respond to requests when applications are made for some of the \$900 million that has been available over the past three years with a firm "Yes". It is a strategy that is not economically sound as much as it is politically advantageous. In operating this way, even though he says otherwise, the minister is looking at the political advantages to a large extent. These are not my words but the words of a member who used to be in the cabinet and left, who divorced himself from the cabinet. He sat in the same councils as the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion but could not stomach the short-range, sellout approach of this government.

I have an article from which I should like to quote briefly. It appeared in *MacLeans* magazine for July of last year and is headed "Baby, it was cold inside". It is the story of how Eric Kierans was frozen out by the Prime Minister.

**Mr. McBride:** Who is the author?

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** Walter Stewart.

**Mr. McBride:** Ha!

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** My hon. friend may laugh, but let me tell him he will laugh on the other side of his face