

Employment Tax Credit Act

cost the lives of three fishermen, their boat and their equipment. The fishermen I have talked to personally, the ones I have surveyed, put 2,309 traps in the water a week ago last Sunday. I am talking, now, of just 14 lobster men out of some 300. Mr. Speaker, 2,072 of those traps, out of 2,309, were completely destroyed. In a good lobster season a trap will produce 100 pounds of lobsters, bringing to the fishermen between \$2.50 and \$3 a pound depending on the market. That cash is gone.

When it came to my attention last Thursday that the storm was abating to the point at which the fishermen could get out to check their traps, I got in touch with the office of the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. LeBlanc). The people there were not even aware a storm had occurred. I alerted them to the fact and asked that an assessment of the damage be started as soon as was reasonably possible—which was the following day, just last Friday.

● (1730)

By yesterday morning nothing had been done. By this morning there seemed to be a general awareness that upwards of 300 fishermen had lost their means of livelihood for the next four or five months. There was no program to do anything about it, no indication of any special effort to go out and help these fishermen find lobster trap replacements, no indication of whether or not there might possibly be available to them some interim financial help to buy traps, and no consideration had been given until early this morning to whether the government would even consider extending the lobster season.

I mention this because obviously it is a very serious problem to lobstermen from the Halifax harbour down to at least Port Bickerton, and as you move further east along the shore, the losses seem to go down, as you can tell from these figures, of 250 traps set 226 are lost, of 220 set 210 lost, of 250 set 200 lost, of 120 set 100 lost, and of 128 set 103 lost or damaged beyond repair. No action was taken by the federal government. The fisheries protection officers in the area were becoming aware of it by last week, but there was no intervention, no special direction, no care and no concern from this government for the livelihood of men who have to ply the seas for their living.

It is the same attitude they have to jobs—"give them a handout." That is all you have in northern Ontario from this government. All you got was a handout, and do not ever make a mistake about that. They will give you hundreds of millions of dollars, they do not care about it. Do you know what it is? In job creation, they gave us \$44 million three or four years ago to put in a water infrastructure program to service the city of Halifax. Of that \$44 million, within ten days of the documents being signed, over \$40 million was being spent back here in Quebec and Ontario. They stand up in the House and say, "We just gave you \$44 million, what do you want?" We say we want jobs so we can start paying our own way, so we are not the poor cousins.

It was interesting to hear the member from British Columbia speak about the rough time they are having. They

are having it, no question about that. Our situation is exactly the opposite to theirs. For every government to person transfer in terms of the total stimulation of dollars in British Columbia, where for us it is 64 cents of the transfer dollar, for them it is the exact opposite. For every 64 cents which the federal government pumps in there in terms of pensions, unemployment, or government-to-government transfers, they are producing \$1.64 of new wealth. So that is just the gap.

They should keep up their good work and fight for their own provinces, but in the doing of it let them remember that there are four provinces and the eastern part of the province of Quebec where underemployment and unemployment are serious, chronic problems facing this country. Those problems will not be addressed by short-term, ad hoc approaches to employment. We must, as a nation, start to be a little imaginative; we must begin to look at areas such as natural resources and renewable resources, areas where our dollars will have a better opportunity to create long-term permanent jobs. Until we have done that, you will have as a burden around the necks of Canadian taxpayers the million or million and a half people living east of Quebec City. I do not think that does anything for national unity and I do not think it serves us well, but we do not do anything about it and I think that is regrettable.

If I have a hope for the next four years, it is probably that in terms of jobs, of job creation, this chamber will come to recognize and will be able to bring to bear on governments a type of awareness and realization that, if we do not move, we will create third and fourth generation people in all or parts of five of our provinces whose lives will have been touched directly by some form of welfare payment from the 1930s through the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. We are now dealing with fourth generation people who are growing up, coming through the schools, who will be underemployed, who will spend a large part of their lives on unemployment insurance or some other form of government-to-people transfer. Surely as Canadians, surely as a responsible House, we can use our imagination and can redress this so that it does not become an accepted fact in the Canadian way of life.

Hon. Judy Erola (Minister of State, Mines): Mr. Speaker, since the hon. member had alluded to an announcement that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Lalonde) made last Friday about the moving of a refinery to a section of the province to which I am very close, I would like to begin by recounting something that happened to me this past weekend. I live in a very remote area of northern Ontario. I was wakened very early in the morning by a cacophony of sound which I found quite startling. At first I thought I was sitting in the House of Commons facing the hon. member and his colleagues. But no, it was a flock of geese, and I thought to myself: even they know when it is time to move north.

The hon. member has, in the same breath, justified the move. It was not only a political move—I deny that—it was a logical move. It was a move which meant that this government is standing by its policy to refine where we mine, to carry on further processing of our natural resources. I find it a purely