

### *Supply*

assistance. At the same time the federal Government, through the Department of Transport, continues to provide free ice-breaker service in the St. Lawrence Seaway, free service that costs the taxpayers \$60 million per year.

This radical change in policy completely reverses the former objective to decentralize and thus promote regional development. The Minister of Finance has arbitrarily directed a reorganization of export grain and flour thereby concentrating this industry on the West Coast and the ports of Quebec taking it away from Atlantic Canada. The fact that this was done without warning and with seemingly no appeal precludes and prevents negotiation and an opportunity for fair treatment for the Port of Halifax.

Did this Government study the impact of this move on the economy before it once again delivered a crushing blow to Atlantic Canada? If it did, I challenge this Government to offer some explanation to Haligonians and to Atlantic Canadians as to why their city, their province, their region, has been singled out for crushing under the Government's heavy boot. The increasingly weak reply is the deficit.

I ask this Government if it really believes cancelling Atlantic East will lower the deficit or will it, in fact, increase it? Does the crippling of Canada's most government-dependent region really add to the nation's fiscal well-being? What is the Government's real agenda for Atlantic Canada? Is it some misguided small "c" conservative belief that a total withdrawal of federal dollars will suddenly draw entrepreneurs and investors? Surely not. Or is it a new plan for Canada that concentrates every effort on our major centres to the detriment of regional and small town Canada? Can we in the Atlantic look forward to becoming one vast national park?

Atlantic Canada's universities, some of the best institutions of higher learning, not just in Canada but in the world, are gasping under the weight of their financial burdens. This Budget not only did nothing to alleviate their problems, it revealed a cut to established program funding of 1 per cent a year for five years.

Dalhousie University for well over a century has provided lawyers, doctors, teachers, scientists and business people to Canada and the world. Dalhousie's facilities are straining and the tuition fees are among the

highest in the country. Salaries and benefits are barely competitive, and a proud tradition in education is in danger of a loss in standards. Smaller institutions in the region fear total collapse.

• (1740)

I think today of the travesties inflicted on a riding not far from mine, the beautiful South Shore of Nova Scotia. With the possible exception of Egmont in Prince Edward Island which encompasses Summerside, the South Shore of Nova Scotia has taken the worst of the Government's bizarre and mismanaged policies. There has been the closure of the Barrington radar station with the loss of \$12 million, the closure of the Lockport fish plant, the cuts to UI which will force many seasonal workers on to welfare.

What will become of beautiful small centres like Bridgewater, Lunenburg, Liverpool and Lockport? Indeed, what will become of all our smaller centres as the Government continues its systemic destruction of the infrastructure of Canada as we know it and as we and all Canadians want it to be?

**Mr. Reid:** Systemic destruction?

**Ms. Clancy:** Systemic, yes, learn the new word. I will teach you how to spell it later.

Let us look at Sydney, a hard hit area in a hard hit region. The radar station closure removes 179 jobs. The most recent Devco cuts will destroy another 150. I suppose the Government figures that Cape Bretoners are so tough, they can take anything. They can take a lot, but the betrayal handed them by this whited sepulchre of a Government is not deserved, it is not fair and it is not acceptable.

**Some Hon. Members:** Shame!

**Ms. Clancy:** Right, it is a shame. Canadians deserve fair treatment wherever they live. When this country was forged nearly 122 years ago, its very survival was improbable. The joining of diverse cultures over a vast geographical area, the regional differences, the conflicting loyalties collectively created major problems, but through strong central governments sensitive to all our diversities, we have survived and yes, to a degree, even in Atlantic Canada we have managed to thrive until now. Canadians are, however, aware that this survival has a price tag. It does cost more to be a Canadian. Whether one lives in the East, the West or the North, part of our