

*Supply*

During good times that formula works to our advantage and during bad times we have to live with the results. I do not like living with those results. That means people in my own neighbourhood in my constituency are going to suffer. That is the difficulty with the formula. It can work for you and it can work against you.

Again, going back to the reality of the whole equation, the reality that we are faced with is we are going through some very difficult times. The opposition would like us to think or would like the Canadian people to believe that we are isolated from the rest of the world, that we are the only country going through this very difficult period. Believe me, we are not. We cannot take much satisfaction in that, but we are not the only country in the world going through this recessionary period. The unfortunate part of it is of course that we have to suffer the results of that in our own neighbourhoods.

One of the things that I want to mention, especially in light of the debate that we are hearing across this country at this very moment, the unity debate, the constitutional debate, a part of that I think is going to bring the kinds of answers or the resolution to the problem that we are suffering in Atlantic Canada. As I mentioned earlier, the have not status of Atlantic Canada is not new to us. We have experienced that since Confederation. Also since Confederation we have worked with an outdated Constitution. We have worked with an outdated means of dealing with the realities in today's marketplace.

One of the things that excites me about our economic constitutional proposal is the fact that for the first time we are taking a serious look at dismantling some of those 500 interprovincial trade barriers that have restricted the development of provinces such as mine.

We can point to the present way we do business in Atlantic Canada and see some monumental flaws in it. All of us can, both sides of this House. The difficulty is we could never agree on how we were going to resolve some of those or whether in fact there was the political will to resolve some of those structural difficulties in Atlantic Canada.

For the first time we are taking a very serious look at it, a very reflective look at it. Some of the premiers who have staked out these protected positions on their sort of individual fiefdoms are now taking a very serious look at

dismantling some of those barriers that have restricted our ability to move along with the rest of Canada.

The economists are telling us that in all parts of Canada on average it is costing a family of four \$1,000 in some of the inefficiencies built into the Canadian economy presently. Some have even extended that figure upward to \$2,500. Whether it is \$1,000 or it is \$2,500 it is costing us something. We have to move beyond that.

It is refreshing to know that Canada does want to move beyond that. We want to bring ourselves into the 21st century in a way that we can all be very proud. We are going to have to do that by hard work and dealing with some of those structural inefficiencies that we have lived with for the last 125 years.

• (1750 )

The various economists have various ideas. I guess you would get as many ideas as to how we can improve the lot in Atlantic Canada as you have economists. In fact, you have heard that expression, Mr. Speaker, if you had three economists in the same room you would come up with four different points of view because at the end of the day one of them would sure enough disagree with himself if he talked long enough.

One of the articles that I would like to bring to the attention of the House is an article by John Odenthal. Mr. Odenthal is an economic researcher with the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council which is based, as many of us know, in Halifax. The timing of this article is very refreshing. It is an article from the *Commercial News* of September 1991. It is only a month or so old. He is saying that many Atlantic Canadians seem to think that if the country were to split up, they would live and work pretty much as they always have. He goes on to quote some statistics here:

According to a recent survey commissioned by the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council, fully 57 per cent of Nova Scotians, New Brunswickers, Prince Edward Islanders and Newfoundlanders believe in their immutable economic future.

He goes on to say:

Well, it's time for that 57 per cent to yank their heads out of the sand. Whatever becomes of Canada, the economic status of the Atlantic Provinces is not going to remain constant over the next few years.