Supply

Mr. Turner (Ottawa-Carleton): I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I am not a regressive Tory, I am a Progressive Tory.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): That is not a point of order. The Hon. Member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) has the floor.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, some would say Progressive Tory is a contradiction in terms. The two are mutually exclusive.

I listened to the Minister of State for Forestry (Mr. Merrithew) and he sounded so much as if we were back in 1972, 1973 and 1974 when the Liberals were sitting over there and the Conservatives were sitting in opposition. The Conservatives were raising the same sort of questions about Atlantic Canada, and members of the Liberal Government were getting up and thumping themselves on the back, breaking their wrists over what a great job they were doing in Atlantic Canada.

Mr. Mayer: And you were sitting there with the Liberals in 1972.

Mr. Rodriguez: To hear the Tories today you would think they just discovered Atlantic Canada.

I thought I would participate in this debate because whenever I go to Atlantic Canada I feel very much at home. Atlantic Canada is much like the area I come from. It is very much like northern Ontario. We, just as in Atlantic Canada, have developed from the exploitation of our resources, fishing, mining and forestry. One thing we do not have in northern Ontario is agriculture, but to an extent we are very similar. We in northern Ontario feel the same way Atlantic Canadians feel about their place in the sun called Canada, their role in helping to develop this great nation. In other words, we feel we have been short-changed.

I know Atlantic Canadians are getting the impression, if they do not have it already, that they are not participating fully in the development of our country. We see southern Ontario as the ace in the deck of cards. All our resources are taken out of the ground and the trees are cut down and sent to southern Ontario to be finished. There is little or no manufacturing at all in our area. All of the research and development and manufacturing takes place in the southern part of this province. Having watched this for some time I feel it was a deliberate strategy in developing the southern part of the province. For Atlantic Canada it would be central Canada which is being developed at the expense of the hinterland. Indeed, things like freight rates were put in place by Government fiat, and they discriminate against those two parts of the country, Atlantic Canada and northern Ontario. It locks us into forever being hewers of wood and drawers of water. We have not eliminated these trade barriers and hinderances.

I will give you the specific example, Mr. Speaker, of the steel industry. As far as I know there are no iron ore deposits in southern Ontario. They are in the North. The iron ore is mined and shipped to southern Ontario. Bill Davis built Nan-

ticoke, a brand-new operation, to finish steel. Why was that not done where the ore was mined? I suspect the same thing has happened in Cape Breton. That part of the country was sacrificed to develop the steel industry in the Hamilton area. This is all the design of the past. Fish were caught and shipped to the United States to be processed and canned there. The value of secondary processing was added there. All the people in Newfoundland were good for, under the old structure, was to catch the fish, gut them, cut off their heads and tails and ship them south. Then we have the forestry. What a scandal! There was never any plan or program for harvesting the forests of Atlantic Canada and northern Ontario. The only plan was to cut them down as quickly as you can and ship them out. As a result, there were serious problems in New Brunswick with the spring run-off where the trees had been cut. There was no program to plant a tree where a tree was cut. When the people concerned discovered the disaster, they turned to both the provincial and the federal Governments for money to replant trees.

Much has been made of unemployment figures. I want to put some unemployment figures on the record which came out of Statistics Canada last Friday. The national unemployment rate is 10.2 per cent. The adjusted figure in Newfoundland is 19.6 per cent, the same as the previous month. In Nova Scotia it is 13.5 per cent, up by .4 per cent from the previous month. In New Brunswick it is 15.2 per cent, up by .2 per cent. In Prince Edward Island it is 15.3 per cent, up by 2 per cent from the previous month. This did not happen overnight. This is the result of years of attention and concern by both provincial and federal Governments to make sure that the economies of those provinces were developed with the best interests of the people at heart. But often times, and we can look at history, it was the Governments of those provinces which sold the people out. They were amply aided and abetted by the federal Government. The history is clear. Look at Joey Smallwood's performance in Newfoundland. He ripped the resources out of the ground and sold them out. He had no concern for the health and safety of the people. I went to the little town of St. Lawrence in Newfoundland. In the graveyard one sees the results of the lack of concern by a provincial Government for the occupational health and safety of the folks. The federal Government gave a company concessions to exploit that resource with no concern for the people. Members in the House should hang their heads in shame.

● (1250)

I know that my good friends on the Liberal benches are sincere folks, but federal Liberal Governments and provincial Conservative and Liberal Governments should hang their heads in shame. Is Joey Smallwood's resettlement plan to move everyone in from the outports so different from what Donald Macdonald is saying in his latest report? He says that we should give them relocation grants to move them out. He is an up-dated Joey Smallwood. That is the mentality. They do that instead of tackling the problem.

I would like to put a shocking statistic on the record. Income per capita in Newfoundland is 65.3 per cent of the national