

That is a direct quote from page 10 of the addendum of the general agreement between DREE and the province of Nova Scotia. That reasoning is reached because there is recognition on the part of the province of Nova Scotia and DREE that something has to be done. Given the present situation all that can be done is for the province of Nova Scotia to proceed without the assistance of the federal authority, and that, while it is possible, would be a regrettable state of affairs.

Mr. Joseph-Philippe Guay (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Madam Speaker, I listened with considerable interest last Tuesday, April 8, when the hon. member and his colleague from Central Nova (Mr. MacKay) asked the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Jamieson) a number of important questions concerning the development agreements signed with the province of Nova Scotia. I speak here of hundreds of millions of dollars, over \$142 million, I would suggest.

As hon. members will know, the minister has been signing subsidiary agreements over the past months with the various provinces under the authority of the general development agreement. Last Monday he signed two important agreements with the province of Nova Scotia. These agreements are included in the \$142 million I mentioned. They related to development plans for the Strait of Canso area and the metropolitan Halifax-Dartmouth area. I know that copies of these agreements have been provided to the hon. member's office.

Over the past four years there has been tremendous growth in shipping and port related activities on the east coast. All major east coast ports have benefitted from this expansion, including the port of Halifax. It is expected that the container terminal in Halifax will operate at

capacity this year. There is as well a general acceptance of the need either to expand existing facilities in that port or build a second terminal. The minister explained in his reply to the hon. member that there was a real need to determine in a precise way questions relating to design and site location factors. Because of the important economic impact this will have, not only on Halifax but on the rest of the east coast, further studies were felt to be warranted. The agreement itself spells this out more fully, and I quote:

This research will include detailed financial and cost benefit analysis of alternative sites, conceptual design and block layout design, required off and on site support, infrastructure requirements such as backup storage, transportation and distribution facilities, and an environmental impact assessment.

I believe the hon. member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall) will agree at this time that the minister replied to him as fully as is possible. Part of the reply, I think, should be repeated because it states his position clearly, and I quote:

We would be quite prepared to enter into a special supplementary agreement with a view to expanding the facilities along the lines mentioned by the hon. member. Whether or not it would be an expansion of what exists at present or whether it would be in a different location are issues which still must be resolved among the parties of which DREE is really not a direct member. But when the project has been firmed up in respect of the ideas and concepts of those who are promoting it at the present time, then as I have said we are prepared to make a DREE contribution.

I realize this matter is most important to the Dartmouth area. The hon. member has raised additional points concerning the matter, and I wish to assure him that these will be brought to the minister's attention as well.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.27 p.m.