

Unemployment Insurance Act

socialist concept that will lead to nothing but deterioration of spirit and productivity and performance.

The Hon. Member says that what the people want us to give them is fish. The principle reason we are having a fishing crisis is that the fishing resource has become depleted. You cannot cause a God-given resource like fish to be recreated overnight. It has got to be managed. I think the decisions which have been made by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) are responsible if not courageous decisions to protect the resources for future generations that should have been taken years ago. If there is anything that underlines the need for training, if there is any crisis that emphasizes the value of this significant shift to training in the Unemployment Insurance Act, it is the realization that a traditional resource upon which we depended for centuries is no longer abundant. Something else must be done.

Mr. Tobin: Are you declaring the end of fishing?

Mr. Bird: I am not saying that it is the end of the fishery at all, absolutely not. As a matter of fact, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has taken a management approach that will see that these fish stocks are preserved and managed and that we use them in the context of the harvest that we can afford. The stark reality is that for the foreseeable future the fishery will not be able to support the traditional numbers of people it has in the past. There will have to be a transition to new kinds of jobs, new kinds of industry. There is nothing that is growing faster in the Atlantic region or anywhere else than the service jobs—

• (1740)

Mr. Tobin: A & W, McDonald's, Harvey's.

Mr. Bird: I heard the other day that in McDonald's and Harvey's and places like that—you may laugh, my friend, but in those places today you have to know how to operate a computerized cash register.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Bird: Mr. Speaker, those gentlemen have been so long ensconced in the security of this House as their way of life that they do not realize what it takes to get a job today. I have worked in the private sector for a few years—longer than you, young man—and more recently

in it. I can tell you that you can sit there and shoot your yap off, as you do day after day, but you are about as ineffective as anything I have seen.

This unemployment insurance legislation will give more employment to your constituents than all the words you have ever uttered.

As my hon. colleague has suggested, the transition to aquaculture in the fishery will be significant.

I support this Bill. I support the training that it will provide. I support the concept and the direction it is going. I totally reject the crutch of a guaranteed annual income. If that is the best idea the Hon. Member for Labrador (Mr. Rompkey) can come up with, I think it speaks to his bankruptcy of ideas on this question.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Robichaud: Mr. Speaker, what I just heard from a Member for New Brunswick is absolutely incredible! As if we should train people in the Atlantic region to work at McDonald's! Maybe he should have talked about A&W and all the other small stores that employ many people part-time. That is exactly what has happened in Atlantic Canada. I would like to ask him whether he agrees with his government when it cut funds for regional development programs in the last budget, when it cut the ACOA program, for which the Prime Minister had promised Atlantic Canadians \$1.05 billion in new money, over and above all other programs. But now they are not singing the same tune. The period is being extended from five to seven years and we no longer have the money for development subagreements. So I ask him, with the changes that are being considered for the unemployment insurance program, whether he agrees with his government, with all these cuts that take needed job creation opportunities away from Atlantic Canadians.

[*English*]

Mr. Bird: Mr. Speaker, the regional development spending in Atlantic Canada in 1989-90 will be \$500 million, which is the largest amount ever spent on record. It compares to an average of \$182 million a year that that Government spent in the period 1978-1982.

Mr. Tobin: False.