

impress upon his colleague, the Minister of Public Works, the need for funds to help the fishermen of this country. Unfortunately, the minister is so wrapped up in matters pertaining to the environment and protecting people against pollution that he appears to have forgotten the fishermen. It is not my intention to play down the need for efficient laws with respect to pollution—indeed, I think perhaps more rigid laws are needed to protect the environment—but a great many east coast fishermen have problems just as pressing, for which no solutions are forthcoming.

It is very difficult for a fisherman of St. Mary's Bay in my riding, or in the Ferryland district or the Placentia area to appreciate this government's expenditure of \$2 million on a navy when he is left to his own resources in order to protect himself and his gear against foreign fishing ships.

There presently prevails across Canada a severe shortage of family housing at reasonable prices. Despite past efforts on the part of this government to alleviate the situation, there appears to be no improvement when one reviews the statistical information on the cost of housing, building materials and land. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I cannot become enthusiastic over the Speech from the Throne proposals in the area of housing and urban development.

Most of these proposals are not new. We must remember that the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Andras) had the same proposals ready for introduction at the beginning of last year. Despite the timing of the Minister of Urban Affairs (Mr. Basford), breaking open the cookie jar did not prove too profitable for the rest of Canada when he introduced new measures last June, although they no doubt helped the minister's election results.

Having studied the previous proposals and realizing their shortcomings and the insufficient impact they would have on the social conditions of this country, I cannot believe the minister has suddenly taken a turn for the better and that matters will improve in his department in so far as helping those in need of housing is concerned. On the other hand, if by some stroke of luck things have changed, the minister might be interested to know something about housing problems in Newfoundland.

An article which appeared in this morning's issue of the *Globe and Mail* gave statistics with reference to the housing problem in my province. It stated that Newfoundland appears to have the worst record of housing of any province. Regretfully, I have to agree with that statement, Mr. Speaker. We have very serious overcrowding in my riding and in Newfoundland generally. There are not sufficient subsidized housing units to accommodate the people who are desperately anxious for a decent place in which to live and raise a family. In my city, with a population of less than 100,000, there are more than 500 families desperately in need of public housing. Their names have been listed with the St. John's housing authority for quite some time, but there is very little hope of their getting better housing in the foreseeable future.

The average cost of a new house built under the National Housing Act in St. John's, Newfoundland, exceeds the average cost of the same house built under the National

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Housing Act in other parts of Canada. That in itself is not so frightening, Mr. Speaker, until we realize that in my province and in my city the per capita income is far less than that enjoyed by other Canadians, in my province and in my city the rate of unemployment is higher than that experienced in other Canadian cities and provinces, and in my province and in my city the cost of living exceeds that in other provinces and cities.

When all these things are added together, I am sure it will be seen that there is a very serious problem for the average salaried, blue collar worker living in the city of St. John's and in Newfoundland in general. Mr. Speaker, we must ask ourselves how we can expect a person who is forced to live and raise a family in a home that is unfit for human habitation to appreciate the problems of national unity or the multimillion dollar spending spree of this government on bilingualism and biculturalism. It is about time members of this government, both English-speaking and French-speaking, faced a few very important facts of life. I should like to remind the Minister of Transport (Mr. Marchand) and the Prime Minister, who devoted their entire speeches in this debate to the problems of French Canada, that Quebec is not the only province whose people have problems and who in many instances are treated like second-class Canadians. I admit that in some areas these problems are peculiar to that province, but basically there is not much difference between the problems of Quebec and those of the other disadvantaged regions of Canada. These problems are as basic as bread and butter or meat and potatoes; they are as basic as the difference between have and have-not. Misery and suffering brought on by poverty knows no linguistic or cultural boundaries.

• (1610)

I would like the minister and the Prime Minister to appreciate that the extent to which the fishermen in Quebec must struggle for existence is no different from that of the fishermen in St. Mary's Bay in my constituency. The pleas of a child who is fighting to overcome the stigma of social welfare, struggling to make his own way, to find his place in the sun and beat the system that has forced him and his family on welfare, are no different whether they are spoken in English or in French.

I believe that the problems in Quebec and in other parts of Canada are not linguistic or cultural, as certain people would have us believe; rather, they are problems of people not unlike people in my constituency and in other parts of Canada who demand social and economic equality. Their problems are no different, no less acceptable and no less palatable than the problems of people living in Newfoundland or in other so-called have-not provinces.

I wish to make some comments with regard to the need for more and better legislation for consumer protection. We must recognize the fact that the rapid growth of consumer credit in Canada has created an urgent necessity for more rigid and restrictive standards of consumer protection. Lack of substantial controls and regulations in this area has allowed the public to be subjected to gross misrepresentation through false and deceitful advertising. Numerous worldwide cartels have imposed unfair prices and impositions on the consumer, with little opposition from the government.