

Adjournment Debate

cause the government any bother at all. If firms move out of Quebec it is different, but out of Newfoundland anyone can move.

Then yesterday I came across a proud boast from the Export Development Corporation that that crowd of clowns are giving \$30.6 million to Alcan to help them construct an alumina plant in Ireland. The government allow Alcan to do away with jobs in Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, and create them with our money and our credit in Ireland. Jobs for the Irish through Alcan, but not in Newfoundland. What kind of sense does that make?

● (2207)

The Export Development Corporation has to be brought under control. They do not care what they do as long as they whack the money out. The more money they whack out, supposedly financing our exports, the better they like it. It is the "Export and be Damned the Canadian Workers Corporation". That is what the EDC is.

Alcan should not receive one cent from the government of Canada. Alcan has calmly shut a fluorspar mine down and put 300 men out of work in St. Lawrence, not because the mine was losing money but because Alcan can get fluorspar cheaper from Mexico. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Horner) did nothing to stop this. The government would not put on a tariff or impose quotas for reasons they never properly explained.

The only alternative for that community is a fish plant. There is a fine harbour there. The only alternative for the men is to go back to fishing or work in a fish plant. They made a proposal to the federal government through Fisheries Products Limited and the Newfoundland government to put a plant there. They need two things. They need loans and grants from DREE and permission from the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment (Mr. LeBlanc) to allow several Portuguese vessels to land there. But the federal government is delaying making any decision. I call on the ministers to take some action on these problems, particularly with regard to St. Lawrence.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Gilbert Parent (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Veterans Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I do not always understand English very well. The hon. member has used the word "dithering". What does it mean in French? I did not quite understand everything, but the hon. member asked two questions to which I will now reply.

[*English*]

I would like to advise the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), that the minister has a copy of the preliminary report on a study of the economic potential of the St. Lawrence fluorspar deposits in Newfoundland which was prepared for the government of Newfoundland and Labrador by B. L. Hodge and Partners, London, England. The report was sent to the minister by the Hon. T. Alex Hickman, minister of inter-governmental affairs of the government of Newfoundland and

[Mr. Crosbie.]

Labrador—I am sure the hon. member is familiar with this gentleman—on the understanding that it be kept strictly confidential. Accordingly, I suggest that the hon. member approach the Hon. A. Brian Peckford, minister of mines and energy of the government of Newfoundland and Labrador, with regard to the report, because we intend to uphold the confidentiality of the report that was given to the minister.

I understand that Mr. Peckford met with Alcan officials in Montreal when Alcan restated the company's decision to close down its fluorspar mining operations in St. Lawrence, Newfoundland because they are no longer economically viable. A press release of December 1, 1977 by Alcan indicates that there are differences of opinion between Alcan and its consultants and the Hodge report on many aspects of the possible continuation of production having regard to mining safety and economic viability under present conditions.

I also understand that Alcan has offered the Newfoundland government a five-year lease of the mining rights and equipment at St. Lawrence for a nominal sum of \$1 per year as the company does not want to be a stumbling block between the Newfoundland government and any other company which may be found to operate the fluorspar mines at St. Lawrence.

HEALTH AND WELFARE—CARE OF THE ELDERLY—FINANCIAL AID FOR THOSE IN INSTITUTIONS

Mr. P. B. Rynard (Simcoe North): Mr. Speaker, on January 26 I asked the minister whether home care help was available under the Canada assistance plan and, if so, how much. Her answer was that the plan extended into the home care field, that Ontario had already been given \$1 billion under the block funding arrangements, and that money was available also for home care programs.

I wish to set my question in order and lay the basis for the question I am going to ask. In 1957, the federal government brought in the Hospital Diagnostic Services Act. Ten years later they brought in national medicare. Quality of service was stressed. There was to be 95 per cent coverage. This was in spite of the fact that Ontario had a health care plan brought in by the Robarts government which covered all social services.

● (2212)

The federal government forced the provinces to accept the universal health care scheme, and then the pressure went on. Of course, escalating costs due to inflation were an important factor. The situation necessitated cuts in the nursing staff and then there was pressure to get patients out of active treatment beds quickly because the cost of an active treatment bed is anywhere from \$100 to over \$200 a day. Patients were removed to chronic care beds costing between \$40 to \$100, quite a saving. As I say, the nursing staff was reduced and a nurse, no matter how capable, can only do so much. My contention is that these measures could lead inevitably to a reduction in the quality of patient care.

I go on a little further. From chronic care beds patients are transferred to nursing homes, in which case the government