

[Text]

tier and that was what came across very strongly and lent a kind of excitement to the whole trip.

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There is no reason for despair so far as I can see but there would be good reason for those people to realize too that they may have to move to better locations but they really will be in Newfoundland since the total possibilities are so great.

I would say the same for Cape Breton where I think most of us were aware that there seemed at least to be quite dramatic new events in the coal and steel industry, which are very heartening to see. Perhaps I should just stop there. We saw a lot of problems but we saw on the other side that with the help of this Department and necessarily other federal departments and with the help of provincial governments, as we cannot really step into their jurisdictions, we could make some real contributions to development.

The Chairman: Thank you, Mr. O'Connell. Mr. McBride.

Mr. McBride: Mr. Chairman, I want to add a word because I was much impressed with the contrasts in the area that I had the privilege to go into between two islands in particular, Fogo and Bell. It seemed to me that here we had one island, Fogo, that had a remarkable spirit developing. Some people could say well, rather late in the day, in that I think it is up to 15 years since the major fish merchants have withdrawn, but some really incredible local leadership was evolving there which made me quite enthused about the possible future prospects for Fogo. At the same time contrasting Bell Island made me quite discouraged about the future prospects for Bell Island. This is as an outsider coming in objectively and with all the limitations that imposes. What I want to say before the Committee is that I think this is a case in point where we cannot assume that groups in the same general region of the country have the same future potential and the same possibilities and certainly some tough decisions have been made concerning Bell Island. It seems to me that tough decisions must be stuck with and we have to do something here at the personal and human level for these people who are certainly in a most unfortunate situation. I think we need exactly the opposite approach and I do not want to go into this further.

I know we are short of time as we always are, but perhaps, Mr. Chairman, we could in the Committee, if others thought it wise, have

[Interpretation]

Il n'y a pas lieu de désespérer, mais ces gens devraient se rendre compte de la nécessité de se déplacer vers des régions plus favorisées comme Terre-Neuve où le potentiel de développement est si grand.

Qui pourrait en dire autant de Cap Breton où la situation des aciéries et des houlières semble se détériorer. Nous venons d'examiner un certain nombre de problèmes, mais avec l'aide des ministères fédéraux et des gouvernements provinciaux, même si nous ne pouvons pas vraiment empiéter sur leur compétence, nous pouvons aider au développement.

Le président: Merci, monsieur O'Connell. Monsieur McBride.

M. McBride: J'ai été frappé par les contrastes de cette région lorsque j'ai visité les îles de Fogo et Bell. Dans l'île de Fogo, en particulier, l'esprit d'entreprise est remarquable. Il y a 15 jours environ que les prisonniers les peu importants ont quitté l'île, mais l'esprit d'initiative qui y règne me fait augurer d'excellentes possibilités d'avenir alors que le contraste est frappant avec l'île de Bell. Voilà un exemple qui montre bien que, dans une même région, les perspectives d'avenir sont inégales. Il faut absolument prendre des mesures pour remédier à la situation humainement pénible des habitants de l'île de Bell.

Comme d'habitude, nous n'avons guère de temps mais nous pourrions peut-être en discuter au sein de ce Comité. Même ceux d'en-