

*Economic Rehabilitation*

I know this is pretty small comfort for people in the older parts of Canada who have occupied themselves for many years in industries such as coal mining. They have made investments in their homes, in their schools and churches and there is a natural reluctance to move. But if they have been working in an industry which is dying or which is dead, then they should be ready to move. That is all there is to it. It seems to me ridiculous to try to persuade people to live in a place where there is no work. Therefore the remedy, as I suggest, is a greatly expanded training program, perhaps for the younger people, so that when employment ceases in a dominant industry they will be prepared to move to where jobs do exist.

There are two remedies. One is the establishment of secondary or other industries if conditions permit, and the other is an expanded training program together with a proper survey of the situation so we do not embark upon a training program for jobs which do not exist. I know that the Department of Labour does make these surveys and does know where there are jobs waiting for skilled workers. I do think that as part of the program to train people and move them as individuals, something further might be done to help them and their families locate where employment is possible.

I was a little surprised to hear the hon. member for Cape Breton South say that the problem in his own constituency or province was one of transportation and lack of markets. It seems to me that if it were possible to establish secondary industries manufacturing a variety of articles in that province, the fact that they would be close to the Atlantic seaboard should be to their advantage. I am a little at a loss to understand how the products of such industries would have any difficulty in reaching suitable markets. If they would have difficulty in that regard I wonder what we have in British Columbia, which is nearly an additional three thousand miles away from the European markets.

I do not think I have very much more to say. This is a distressing problem. I think the thing to do is to establish an expanded training program for the younger people. I have had experience with older people who were in the early fifties trying to get them to move from their homes, but they resisted. Many people in the late forties or early fifties have the idea that they are not suitable material for training, but that is not so. However, it is most difficult to persuade them that they are.

[Mr. Fahey.]

I commend the hon. member for bringing this resolution before the house at this time. He said he did so simply to provoke discussion and concentrate the attention of hon. members of the house on a problem which cries for solution.

I notice that there are two parts to the resolution and I note also that the hon. member has been wise enough to suggest solutions to the problem which he enunciated. One was direct government assistance for the establishment of additional alternative industries in the areas concerned. I suggest that would be something beyond the responsibility of the federal government except in so far as it could and should undertake to make surveys of the possibility of establishing such industries in these areas. They should give wide publicity to this in order to acquaint those who are engaged in similar activities in other parts of the country with the advantages of locating in one of these distressed areas. Certainly anything they could do in that regard, particularly in concert with the municipal and provincial authorities, would be a step in the right direction.

The second remedy the hon. member proposed was assistance to people living in these areas to resettle in other communities where alternative employment could be provided. If he means that the government should undertake the wholesale removal of complete communities I think he would run into great difficulty for the reason I have stated, that is the reluctance of people to leave the communities to which they are attached. However, I agree wholeheartedly with him if he means that by training and other inducements the younger people should be shown that it is to their advantage to move to where better employment is obtainable.

**Mr. G. C. Nowlan (Digby-Annapolis-Kings):** Mr. Speaker, as the hon. member for Cape Breton South said when he moved the resolution, it is all-embracing, taking in a wide field which I think probably encompasses municipal, provincial and federal governments. He has said that he has moved this resolution for the purpose of creating discussion, and in that way it is all to the good. While I might not be in entire agreement with some of the matters to which he referred, substantially I support the resolution and the viewpoint which he advanced.

I participated in a debate a few days ago on the decentralization of industry which I think to a large extent focused attention on the same problem dealt with by this resolution. This afternoon I intend to speak briefly, primarily because of my feeling for a fellow member from Nova Scotia but also because