

Supply

offshore, the helicopter will be 160 miles closer to the disaster and will be able to get there considerably earlier. That helicopter should have been moved years ago, but the hon. gentleman selfishly kept it in Gander despite the fact that it should have been close to the offshore area. That kind of political willfulness and disregard of the health and safety of people in the offshore has now been stopped.

The North Warning System that will be updated in Goose Bay is not in St. John's. A few of the Canada Works programs will be in St. John's, but the Placentia Nursing Home is not in St. John's. I could go on and on. That deals with that part of the question.

Regarding international flights into Gander, only two or three trans-Atlantic flights that go from Newfoundland to the United Kingdom are being moved. Air Canada now uses Gander despite the fact that the traffic originates in St. John's, the Avalon Peninsula and the Burin Peninsula. The rights of the travelling public have been forgotten. The extra expenses incurred by the 60 per cent or 70 per cent of the travelling public who come from those areas are ignored because of the political willfulness and selfishness of the hon. gentleman. Moving these flights will not harm Gander in the least. The airport in Gander will remain an international airport. No other flights will be moved.

Air Canada wants to operate flights from the St. John's airport because the travelling public originates there. Air Canada wants to save the travelling public many dollars and wants to save them the aggravation of trying to get to Gander where they wait hour after hour to get an international flight to the United Kingdom. Gander will not suffer but, for a change, the travelling public will be taken into consideration. The hon. gentleman's selfish willfulness will no longer prevent us from doing what should have been done, 8, 10 or 12 years ago.

Have I dealt with it all? Is there anything else I can deal with that might be on the hon. gentleman's mind? Much will remain where it is. No one in St. John's wants to take anything away from Gander. However, where there is an obvious need for the travelling public to be served so that they can be saved money, time and inconvenience, then surely something should be done. Narrow political parochialism and selfishness should not stop that from being done. I can assure the hon gentleman that Gander is not going to suffer as a result of that action, and as long as I am in the Government of Canada, Gander will not suffer at all.

● (1530)

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, as a new Member I have to say it is a magnificent experience to listen to the Hon. Minister.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Langdon: It indicates to us how sadly confined he is in the Ministry of Justice. However, I did want to indicate that although I am impressed with the impact of the Newfoundland education system in teaching people how to speak, I am not so impressed with how they teach them to count. At last count

there were six provincial New Democrat Members in Atlantic Canada and growing fast.

I am struck as well by the comment about the New Democrats as a never-never Party. I suppose it is preferable to be accused of never doing anything because you are not in power rather than being accused of never doing anything when you are in power. The Minister should, now that it is eight months since the Cabinet was formed, start to deal with the reality that his Government is in power. It is no longer enough to blame on the past what is happening today in Atlantic Canada. It is important for this Minister to recognize that he is in power, the Government is in power, and it has the potential to act. If it is a choice between being perfectly likable or jejune, or magnificently preposterous, perhaps being perfectly likable is preferable.

The Minister has talked about things increasing in Atlantic Canada. The main thing that has increased in Atlantic Canada since this Government came to power is the unemployment rate, and I think it is time this Government recognized that and did something about it.

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, it is hard to get a question out of what the hon. gentleman said, but we know we are in power. We know that is the reality. Did I not just give a list of the results of our being in power for just one province of Canada, and a small one at that? Yes, we are in power and we are doing something. We are taking a long-term approach. The Challenge '85 program, for which the provinces have been looking for years, will not only give people short-term jobs but will help them in their future careers. That is being in power. We knew the reality of being in power when the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski) restored VIA Rail services. The people of Canada know the reality that we are in power. The people of Newfoundland know it because they are treated like decent human beings for a change. They get some respect, they are not treated as they were in the old days. They know, because of the Atlantic Accord, that we are in power. We know the reality because we put forward the Atlantic Accord and the Western Accord. The Hon. Member from Alberta knows we are in power and what the reality is because we got the energy problems settled in western Canada. The people in Quebec know we are in power because of the things we have been doing in Quebec.

We know the reality that we are in power, and we are going to take a long-term approach. We know how bad unemployment is. I live in Newfoundland, I have lived there all my life and I intend to continue living there all my life and I know what unemployment is like in Cape Breton. We know it is not easy to beat that. We do not even know if we are going to be able to beat it, but we are going to take a better crack at it than has been taken before because we are going to go at it in a long-term way, not just for the immediate quick fix. That is the kind of approach that we and the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) are taking.

Yes, the reality is that we are in power. We know it, the people of Canada know it, and we are not going to forget it. The Member is not going to forget it either because with the