DEPARTMENTAL PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF FUNDY TIDAL POWER POTENTIAL

Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion. In view of reports that DREE may be involved in the James Bay development plan and the Upper Yukon River water diversion scheme, will the minister indicate what further action, if any, is contemplated by his department for the development of power potential in the Bay of Fundy? Is there liaison between his department and the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources in this regard?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): The answer to the last part of the question is yes. As to the other two projects the hon. member mentioned, to my knowledge there has been no direct approach by either the provincial government of Quebec or by the governing council of the Yukon with regard to DREE representation. Indeed, at the moment, DREE is specifically excluded from participation in territories' activities and the hon. member directly concerned has made representations to me to see that they are included.

METHOD OF ATTRACTING INDUSTRIES TO CERTAIN AREAS

Hon. Robert L. Stanfield (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary arising from the minister's indication that his department intends to make arrangements to go out and attract industries into the relatively underdeveloped areas of Canada. Is it proposed that the department shall do the selling job, does the hon. gentleman propose to set up some new federal agency, or does he propose to set up some kind of joint federal-provincial agency?

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Transport): I think it is probable that it will be a combination of all three.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jamieson: We would hope, primarily, that it would be on the basis of joint federal-provincial co-operation and through agencies such as the Magie project which takes in Halifax-Dartmouth and which is designed to have this kind of initiating capability.

SUGGESTED ALLOCATION OF FUNDS ACCORDING TO REGIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT—POSSIBLE OBTAINING OF SHARES BY GOVERNMENT FOR GRANTS

Mr. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Bearing in mind the high unemployment levels already referred to in the Atlantic provinces, would the minister assure the House that, unlike the way in which funds were allocated by the former minister, DREE funds will in future be allocated to the various regions of Canada according to the percentage of unemployment existing in those regions.

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): If it were possible to devise a mathematical formula of that kind I would be more than pleased to be

Oral Questions

able to work it out, but I think one would have to add another part to the equation, that is, to put in the same degree entrepreneurship in all the regions or, to put it in another way, the number of applicants from the regions would be proportionate as well and that is not always the case. But the principle is good.

Mr. Broadbent: In view of the findings of the Canadian scholar, Dr. Springate, last spring that a very high percentage of the grants given to large corporations constituted a windfall profit for them, would the minister inform the House whether he will be changing the policy in relation to DREE grants and making grants conditional upon shares being owned by the government or a form of equity being acquired by the government?

Mr. Jamieson: Mr. Speaker, I hope I am permitted the same kind of preamble as the hon. member used to say that I do not agree entirely, or even largely, with the findings of Dr. Springate. However, as to the substantive part of the question, the project I mentioned to the Leader of the Opposition, the Halifax-Dartmouth complex, for instance, envisages precisely the kind of thing to which the hon. member has referred, that is, the taking of equity when this appears to be the most desirable and effective means of participating.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF ENTERPRISES IN CAPE BRETON

Mr. Robert Muir (Cape Breton-The Sydneys): In the minister's reply to my hon. friend from Central Nova he referred to the question of inducing entrepreneurs to come into the area. Is he not aware that an agency already exists on Cape Breton Island charged, among other things, with inducing people to come into the area and create industry? Is he also aware that this work has stopped since the new president, Mr. Kent, took over? Would he be good enough to contact the new president of the Cape Breton Development Corporation and try to induce him to encourage entrepreneurs to come into the

Hon. Donald C. Jamieson (Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): I, of course, am doing this constantly but I do not think it is necessary in this case. I think part of the problem in the area referred to, and in several other areas, lies in identifying what might be described as good economic opportunities. In other words, you have to determine what it is you have to sell before you can find an appropriate buyer. It is putting these two factors together that I am working on.

ATLANTIC REGION—MEETINGS WITH PREMIERS TO DEVISE NEW STRATEGY

Mr. James A. McGrath (St. John's East): In view of the fact that existing DREE programs have had little or no effect with regard to reducing unemployment in the Atlantic region is the minister now prepared to agree to meet with the premiers of the four Atlantic provinces to devise a new strategy of development and a program to change the present unsuccessful industrial structure with a view to creating jobs in the region?