

The Budget—Mr. Howie

(b) 1982-83: 2,659,110

1981-82: 2,030,906

* * *

[Translation]

QUESTION PASSED AS ORDER FOR RETURN

Hon. John Evans (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, if Question No. 467 could be made an order for return, this return would be tabled immediately.

[Text]

LAWYERS EMPLOYED BY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Question No. 467—Mr. Howie:

In the fiscal year ending (a) March 31, 1983 (b) March 31, 1983, to date, were any outside lawyers employed in New Brunswick by the Department of Justice and, if so, in each case, what (i) was his/her name (ii) amount was paid?

Return tabled.

[Translation]

Mr. Evans: I ask, Mr. Speaker, that the remaining questions be allowed to stand.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the remaining questions stand?

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

THE BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Lalonde that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the Government; and the amendment of Mr. Crosbie (p. 1445).

Hon. J. Robert Howie (York-Sunbury): Mr. Speaker, I had covered a large measure of my address before the adjournment. I was concluding my remarks by referring to a number of sectors of the economy in New Brunswick and the Atlantic provinces and indicating the measures which I thought would most stimulative to their extension and development.

There are other sectors, some of growing importance, which have a real or potential export component. These include transportation—port activities in particular and distribution—warehousing for the region, and some services, especially consulting services, engineering, architecture, data processing

and so on. The national defence sector has a major impact on the economy as well.

Together the six sectors account for about one-fifth of all economic activity in the Atlantic provinces, providing 20 per cent of both employment and gross domestic product. The balance of economic activity occurs in the construction and service sectors. As indicated, these are largely dependent on other activities in the region.

Generally, although we have perceived the need to move beyond the traditional industries, we have not always moved into better production and marketing techniques, more sophisticated or higher quality versions of existing products, or new products related to our existing basic skills, managerial expertise, marketing channels and the like.

The fisheries offer a good example of these difficulties. Atlantic Canada has one of the world's largest fisheries, yet participation is modest in the manufacture of deck hardware, propulsion machinery, fishing gear, processing plant equipment, and electronic devices used in navigation. The shipbuilding industry finds it difficult to supply fishing vessels to our fishermen on equal terms with subsidized foreign shipyards. In other words, we have fallen behind in a vital high technology market which should have been a natural for Atlantic Canada.

● (1520)

Nor is fisheries-related manufacturing the only unrealized opportunity. Based upon an assessment of competitive strengths and weaknesses, we appear to have significant manufacturing opportunities in plastics, fabrication, and chemicals extracted from marine plants; in drug, personal and homecare industries; in defence related manufacturing; and on a smaller scale, in certain industrial chemicals and home and commercial furnishings. There are undoubtedly many others.

More specifically, we must devote more attention to the following human resource issues: Government-business-labour relationships; management; innovation; restructuring and marketing. Certainly close co-operation between federal and provincial governments and innovative tax incentive programs are needed to spur economic growth in the Atlantic provinces. Sadly, sound federal-provincial relations are not a hallmark of this Government, nor are innovative fiscal policies.

In the Atlantic provinces we require new programs to encourage innovation in business. We need a better transfer of information between the patent and licensing office and the business community to promote new technology. In addition, incentives to increase the supply of risk capital in underdeveloped areas are vital. An expanded and enhanced mandate for research is also required. Further incentives to encourage process redesign and innovation as well as product innovation are needed. Atlantic Canada also needs a stronger marketing orientation in the program structure specifically aimed at more effective penetration of local, regional, national and international markets.

Let me propose a couple of further, specific ideas which could prove beneficial in this respect. One idea would be to provide a 150 per cent tax credit to small firms starting up in