

That would provide single industry communities with the means to explore diversification options in terms of economic activities.

Money should be spent on affordable housing. An allocation of \$500 million in this area would help with some 500,000 housing units. We need a community initiative fund, a youth initiative fund, and a technological change fund. These are the ways in which we could put money out into communities that would stimulate real development and provide real opportunities for development for small communities and also larger communities in Atlantic Canada, western Canada, northern Ontario and, in fact, for Canada as a whole. They would help to reduce the economic disparity that has plagued Atlantic Canada for so long.

Ms. Dewar: I certainly did appreciate the comments of the Hon. Member for Cowichan—Malahat—The Islands (Mr. Manly) on the whole development of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. As we talk about it and recognize that there is not the type of representation of the ordinary person from Atlantic Canada and a broad perspective of representation, does the Hon. Member think that there can be the ability to do some grass-root strategic planning and economic development?

I heard the Hon. Member and the Parliamentary Secretary say that the agency will be sitting back and waiting for people to come to it with projects, and then it would react. If we have a commitment to economic development taking place within a community, some of that has to be in over-all strategic planning of the skills that lie in that community, and how they can be developed.

I would like to hear from the Hon. Member exactly how he thinks that that could work with an amendment to the establishment of this agency, or the type of representation that is presently there, and what he would propose.

Mr. Manly: I believe that the whole suggestion that this will be done on a proposal-by-proposal basis and that the proposals will be judged on their individual merit ignores the fact that we need proposals that will have ramifications throughout the region and the sub-regions, in order that the proposals will result in development of the area rather than proposals that will succeed by themselves. If we want proposals like that, then they have to come not only from individual entrepreneurs. We are all in favour of individual entrepreneurs receiving some assistance and being able to do their thing. That is important. They can create some development in that manner.

Even more fundamental than helping individual entrepreneurs is the need to help communities to develop their plans for economic development, to get their act together to see in what direction they want to go as communities, to assess their strengths, talents, and resources, and how they can develop a game plan that will lead them from being in a fragile situation where their economy is threatened to one where they will be able to establish a more diversified base. A community plan

Government Organization Act, Atlantic Canada, 1987

would be developed and then proposals would come in that were in accordance with those community plans. I would like to see the agency make way for that kind of proposal to be developed, submitted and accepted.

● (1730)

Ms. Dewar: Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a couple of admirals were speaking in Halifax about six weeks ago saying that they certainly expected the people in Atlantic Canada to support construction of the nuclear submarines. If they did not support that kind of program, how could they expect to get all the things they thought were due to them? It seems to me that when you address the agency structure, you address the kind of control Ministers will have. When you look at the structure and know that there are these economic threats, and given the militarization in the Halifax area, is there some concern that this agency will not truly speak for the people? Rather, will it be controlled by a Government that seems to be bent on making sure that militarization, and expansion of the military-industrial complex, takes place through economic development? I would like the Hon. Member to comment on that.

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Member for her question, which I think is extremely important. The Minister said he wanted to keep political control. If we have a Government in place, as we do now, that sees militarization of the economy as the way to go, and it is proceeding full steam ahead, then there will be a great deal of pressure on different regions. If you have the possibility of military contracts, there will be pressure on those regions to accept them even though the long-term consequences are negative for Canada, negative for our world, indeed negative for those individual areas.

I think this ties in with something I mentioned earlier about how this agency might be subject to U.S. countervailing duty pressure. All these programs might be regarded as being unfair subsidies. However, the one area that the Mulroney-Reagan trade deal exempts from charges of unfair subsidy is military procurement. Any program supposedly in the interests of national security cannot be targeted as involving unfair subsidies. This will result in increased pressure upon regions to accept military contracts as the one way in which the Government can intervene to prop up an economy facing difficulties. That is not the future I want to see for Atlantic Canada or western Canada or any other part of Canada.

Mr. McMillan: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the Hon. Member would clarify for me and the House whether an NDP Government would be opposed to defence procurement in the Atlantic region. In addition, would he clarify an apparent ambiguity between what he said and what the defence critic for his Party seems to have said in the country at large, that an NDP Government would actually increase defence expenditures, not decrease them?

Mr. Manly: Mr. Speaker, certainly we are not opposed to defence procurement in Atlantic Canada any more than we are