

Private Members' Business

resource industries. It has farming as a major industry. There is a sizeable inland fishery and there is a significant forestry sector in that community. Every community I went to and virtually every group I talked to said the problem is that they have lost local control of the resource, that they can no longer make the economic decisions on resource allocation which would make it possible to sustain their jobs into the future.

Therefore, I say to you, Mr. Speaker, that co-operative development in the resource sector, the use of regional development money to finance these kinds of projects, is exactly what we need. We do not need any more megaprojects. We do not need any fancy schemes cooked up in the capitals to try and prop up these industries. What we need is support for local control, support for local co-operative and community enterprises.

The fourth area that shows a lot of promise when it comes to community and local control is the area of health. A study in Saskatchewan has shown that there is a potential 17 per cent saving in health care costs over all through the use of co-operative and community based health associations.

This is a tremendous saving at a time when our medicare system is under threat from both provincial and federal governments due both to a lack of a philosophical belief in medicare and publicly funded health and the costs associated with it. These savings are possible because these kinds of organizations can provide the kind of integrated health care and the kind of preventive measures that make it possible for Canadians to stay healthy without the high cost intervention of the current medical model.

I would like to commend the community health associations in this country which in the last few days came together to try and form an association of community health centres to promote this kind of development from coast to coast. I would encourage the government very much to support that movement with all the resources that it has and to make a basic commitment to this major change in how we approach health care.

Child care is another area where co-operative involvement has shown itself to be not only effective in giving parents control but also effective in providing low cost

quality child care for the many children in this country who do not have it.

We talk about being competitive and productive in this country, but there are hundreds of thousands of parents, particularly women, who are unable to become competitive and productive because they cannot undertake the training or take the jobs that might be available because of the lack of adequate child care. I might note that the national association of those organizations tries to make do with budget of \$11,000 a year.

As well, frontier co-ops, as demonstrated by Arctic co-ops and the co-operative development fund in the north, show very clearly that this kind of development is most appropriate to the economic development of native communities and isolated communities in this country where unemployment often runs as high as 85 to 90 per cent, with the resulting despair, stress and social breakdown that comes with it.

I turn briefly to the whole area of community economic development. There is a huge number of these organizations across the country, but they are plagued with several things. They have lurched from one program to another as governments tried to come to terms with this phenomenon, without any real vision or without any real co-ordination. In fact, the Economic Council of Canada in a major report called *From the Bottom Up* says, and I quote:

People banding together at the local level to promote community economic development can make a real difference to many places across the country. Local residents are often in a better position to judge the economic problems and possibilities of their communities than are federal and provincial bureaucrats.

As part of that report, the Economic Council of Canada recommends several things. It recommends, first of all, that support should be channelled into the establishment of community economic development organizations and their organizational support. They need better information networks. They need training. They need access to market opportunities. The council recommends that business funding should in fact come through existing channels while funding for these organizations should go toward promoting their establishment and organization. They say too that priority should be given to rural and remote areas and that an integrated approach to community development should include not only economics but the provision of services and enhancing the quality of life.