

*Regional Development Incentives Act*

country went to Newfoundland, that is less than one-quarter of one per cent. Under the new program, we are told it will be possible to get 35 per cent of the capital costs of a project instead of the former 25 per cent. Looking at the figures for Newfoundland, Mr. Speaker, I am moved to ask what the difference is between 25 per cent of nothing and 35 per cent of nothing—it could be 100 per cent and still mean nothing.

A few days ago in committee the minister told us that he and his department had asked the Atlantic Provinces Economic Council to investigate why the program is not succeeding in Newfoundland. Does he seriously want them to report on this while at the same time saying, "We are now including the great industrial area of Montreal." The reason is obvious, Mr. Speaker. Any program that has the same guidelines for the industrialized areas of this country as it has for Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick is not based on a firm premise. It defeats itself and contradicts itself. This is a program to combat regional disparity but the program is the same for the whole country. It has the same rates of benefit, the same amount of money payable to a potential developer for jobs created in Montreal as in the outports of Newfoundland. In its very essence, Mr. Speaker, it is foolish.

What is the problem, Mr. Speaker? The minister is not here to listen but I believe I have the answer. I believe that the minister, as well as some other ministers, is too urbanized to be in charge of a program like this.

**Mr. Lundrigan:** That's right.

**Mr. Peddle:** We have had the champagne circuit, the pigs-in-the-blanket at cocktail time, and the rose in the teeth. Mr. Speaker, I think we have to convince the ministers that there are more smells in this country than that of a rose. There are the smells of the barnyard, the fish plant, the fishing boats and all the others that make up this country.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Peddle:** They are too preoccupied with the carpeted office.

In committee the other day when I asked the minister why he persisted in excluding 75 per cent of the province of Newfoundland from this incentives program, he said that all of Newfoundland was included. It is not, Mr. Speaker. The province of Newfoundland includes some 110,000 square miles of that great expanse of Labrador.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Peddle:** I asked the same question when the incentives program was first introduced and I got the same answer, "We don't think there is any possibility of development up there." At the time, I thought that was fairly reasonable because other places were excluded as well. Now, I find that the city of Montreal is included, so I have to go back to my riding and explain to the people why it is excluded from a program designed to help just such areas. I have to explain why Montreal and a

[Mr. Peddle.]

number of other areas are included in the regional development incentives program to help disadvantaged areas. That is going to be a very difficult task. The minister's answer is not satisfactory. He just shrugs and says, "It is north". We cannot penalize people because they live in the north.

I tried to impress upon the minister some of the things I found when I travelled this area last summer. There are no big urban areas along the coast of Labrador; there are only communities of 500 or 600 people. I saw things that were frightening, Mr. Speaker, such as 10,000 pounds of fresh salmon being returned to the sea because there was no place to store it. There was no way to process it, so it went back to the sea and nobody seemed to give a you-know-what. There are several of these areas, but the minister says they cannot be designated because there is not much possibility of expansion. We don't want chemical plants and pulp mills along the coast of Labrador. We want a paltry few thousand dollars to help those people when they go out and catch fish, so that they will not have to throw it back into the sea.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Peddle:** I suggest that this minister, and some of the others, should get out of their plush offices and go into the country to ascertain the problems relating to the departments they operate. It might be a real education, Mr. Speaker. I know it has been an education for me. When was the last time the minister visited the coast of Labrador? When is the next time he is going to visit it? I invite him to come now. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that since the program with which the minister has been so delighted has been changed from a regional program to a national one, he will have to set up another separate scheme to look after regional problems. I plead with him to include Labrador when he does that.

● (8:40 p.m.)

**Mr. Robert McCleave (Halifax-East Hants):** Mr. Speaker, I promised my colleague for Bonaventure (Mr. Béchard) that I would talk for only about four minutes. Perhaps I will take five minutes. The hon. member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador (Mr. Peddle) mentioned that about 10,000 pounds of salmon had to be thrown back into the ocean and that should make an impact on the thinking of this House, especially when we are trying to deal with legislation such as this. As the hon. member pointed out the other day in committee when we were considering the bill, the amount that the fishermen concerned lost may not mean very much to city slickers, but it was a very considerable sum for those who had expended a lot of sweat and energy in catching the fish. What he said should not be dismissed as rhetoric. As a matter of fact, I think I will speak for about four or five minutes. I really feel keenly about this matter. If we cannot cope with problems like that, we are indeed sinking.

I now come to the main burden of my speech, and I shall keep it brief. The makeup of the committee which studied the bill dealing with the regional economic devel-