

Government lacked and which this Government, despite its rhetoric, has not been prepared to provide. We have as well suggested support for agriculture and for energy alternatives.

The right direction is there. It is possible to take the new approach of trusting our communities in this Budget. It is possible to take a bottom-up approach that would give us the jobs that are so desperately required. It is possible to affect the economy positively. Instead, what do we see? Why are we rising today to support this motion of non-confidence in the Government with respect to its neglect of Atlantic Canada?

When looking at the actual performance of the Government as opposed to the honeyed phrases and bombastic commentaries, we see that there has been a lack of action. We see negligence and neglect. The Minister spoke of meetings and I applaud that. However, there is a point at which meetings must translate into action. Attending meeting after meeting as described by the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion does not help an unemployed woodworker in Newfoundland. It does not help the fishermen in Cape Breton or the 55 per cent of the workforce out of work in Newcastle, New Brunswick. It takes action and that is what we have not had.

● (1420)

We have not even had a Budget from this Government as yet. But we have had cuts; in social housing and the residential rehabilitation program. This Minister of closure who got up to talk about what a magnificent job he is doing did not bother to mention the cuts in IRDP which has left Halifax, as one example, ineligible to receive grants for modernization and expansion. How can the Conservative members who represent that part of Canada feel happy and confident with that direction?

There has been no action on Sysco despite the request from the Conservative Government of Nova Scotia for federal help to put that enterprise back on its feet. Then we have the woodlots. The Federation of Woodlot Owners in New Brunswick made a simple request, five months ago by my count, for more funding to help local, small woodlot producers reforest their lots. Five months and no action yet. How can this Government justify that? Atlantic Canada put its confidence in those Members and they are not coming through. Co-operatives are very important in Atlantic Canada, but has this Government done anything to help them? Not a thing.

This Government believes that the answer to all our problems lies outside our boundaries. This Government truly believes that the foreign investment community, thanks to the magnificent honeyed tones of our Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney), will flock in and solve our problems. The people of the Maritimes have had far too much experience with the Doscos and Hawker Siddeleys of the world to expect that foreign investment is going to be some kind of magic cure. Then we have free-trade zones. This is the new pot at the end of the rainbow. We can somehow turn Cape Breton into a free-trade zone, get rid of minimum wages, get back to the free market where we can compete with Korea. Fantastic stuff. What a vision! What a sense of commitment to and confidence in the

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Canadian people. This Government believes that competing with Taiwan and Korea is the answer to our problems. Free trade with the United States is the other magic solution.

What all of these ideas have in common is that they have not been thought through, they will not come to pass, and even if they did they would not solve the job problems of the hundreds of thousands of people in Atlantic Canada who are looking for a future. Where is the faith in Canadians? Where is the faith in small business people? Where is the faith in the co-operative tradition in Atlantic Canada? Where is the faith in the men and women of that part of the country, people who told us again and again and again of positive, exciting ideas they had to build their communities and create the jobs we need? Yet this Government is not responding to that sense of hope and potential. It puts its faith in magic solutions from the outside instead of real answers based on Canadian communities.

What we heard from Atlantic Canada was that they are tired of hand-outs; they are tired of short-term, make-work projects. They want a long-term future. They want jobs based in and on their communities, but this Government has not as yet shown it has heard that message. Perhaps it will, I hope it will, but on the basis of its record since September 4 I have to say: neglect, negligence; the evidence is there. I hope the evidence will be changed in this coming Budget, but for the moment it is clear this Government has failed Atlantic Canada and it deserves to hang its head in shame for that failure.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments?

Mr. Warner: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member for Essex-Windsor (Mr. Langdon), in his introductory remarks, congratulated certain members of his Party and certain members of the Liberal Party. In the Ontario riding of Cornwall the Conservative candidate, Luc Guindon, was successful in winning a seat which had been held by the NDP. I was wondering if inadvertently the Hon. Member had forgotten to congratulate the Conservatives.

Mr. Langdon: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that question. I had thought, to be fair, that I should not comment too much on the Conservative performance in yesterday's election. As I look through the detailed results I thought it might be best, out of a sense of charity and friendliness, not to mention what had happened to my poor Conservative friends in Ontario. However, since the question has been raised I feel honour bound to talk with concern about what has happened to Mr. Miller and his regime.

Mr. Nickerson: Tell us who came in last.

Mr. Langdon: I see, for instance, there has been a tremendous loss in Toronto. Here in Ottawa there have been losses. I see that in London, even Ministers were defeated. I see that the poor Minister of Labour in Sault Ste. Marie, and I can understand my hon. friend from Sault Ste. Marie—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order, please. I think we are way off the motion. Resuming debate.