

*The Address—Mr. Hogan*

years ago. The corporation, which was set up in 1967, for which I among others, including the Secretary of State for External Affairs, fought hard to bring about, seemed doomed to failure in the early years. In recent years, buoyed by the Arab oil-jacking policy that breathed new life into the coal industry, with some solid support from the federal government and hard headed planning and work by Devco leaders, we have found ourselves in the position of being able to express the hope that this depressed economy within the next ten years, with the same government support and enthusiastic leadership, can see a complete reversal of the despairing situation that has existed for the residents of industrial Cape Breton for practically 50 years.

If this is to be more than a hope, then a decision by the federal government to co-operate in an equity position with the government of Nova Scotia in establishing a new steel complex in the Cape Breton industrial area, as recommended recently by the site location experts of the Steel Company of Canada hired by DREE, is an absolute necessity. This unique experiment in a depressed area in an attempt at rehabilitation, initiated by the federal government, in my opinion depends for its success on the establishment of such a complex. Such a complex will mean stability of employment in the coal industry that will fairly quickly be almost paying its way again, so that eventually that area and the proud and courageous people who built it will be making a more positive contribution to the tax coffers of this nation. It is up to this government to make sure this experiment that was carried out, popularly called Devco, will not be allowed to die for lack of proper investment funds.

On a final note in connection with the coal industry, many members of this House have heard my predecessor make claims on behalf of coal miners who were pre-retired between 1969 and 1971 as part of the federal government's package to meet the crucial problem that then existed. These men, in receiving their pre-retirement benefits, had those benefits reduced to the extent of their unemployment insurance benefits in the year following their retirement. In 1971 the Cape Breton Development Corporation changed its policy and now unemployment insurance benefits are not considered part of the pre-retirement benefit.

The previous members who represented this constituency took the case of the coal miners who were pre-retired between 1969 and 1971 to the courts against the Cape Breton Development Corporation. They lost the decision in the courts. Before that happened, the chief officer of the Cape Breton Development Corporation had offered to arbitrate with the pre-retirement committee representing these men. This offer was refused.

I note that the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Jamieson) is not in the House this afternoon. I hope some of his confrères will bring my comments to his attention. I plead with him to make funds available to the Cape Breton Development Corporation so that these miners who were pre-retired between 1969 and 1971 can receive a benefit to which I believe, while not being a lawyer, they are not legally entitled, but to which I believe they are morally entitled. I make the case for them in terms of morality rather than legality. I ask the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion to call a meeting with

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the head of the Cape Breton Development Corporation, Mr. Kent, and myself in order that we might rectify this situation as soon as humanly possible, and give these men their moral due.

The minister and members of the committee on regional development went on record in the last session in support of these men, and I ask now that this verbal support be translated into action in terms of payment to them that is, while not legally due on the part of the Cape Breton Development Corporation, morally due. God knows they need it and would appreciate it, as I found out during the last election campaign.

In part of my constituency there lives a hardy breed of men who, like other maritimers, make their living from the sea by fishing. The east coast fisheries are in serious straits, especially the inshore fishery. I promise to do my best to co-operate with the new minister of fisheries (Mr. LeBlanc) and maritime representatives from other fishing areas to help devise a short and a long-term policy for the maintenance and rebuilding of this industry, to prepare for a world, as we have previously noted, that is facing an increasing deficiency in food, especially in high-protein food such as fish. The fishermen in my area, from Glace Bay to Louisbourg through Morien, Main-a-Dieu, l'Ardoise and Bateson, are anxious to have the new minister meet with them to dialogue about their needs. During this session of the House we will be attempting to bring their pressing needs to his attention.

In concluding, Mr. Speaker and hon. members, may I suggest that the throne speech, as the expression of the government's supposed legislative program in brief outline, leaves a lot to be desired. It does not appear to represent an adequate response to the serious international and national problems that face our nation at this time. On a more positive note, may I express the wish, in this my first speech in the House of Commons, that this thirtieth Canadian parliament, which will likely last for four years, may go down in the history of this country as the parliament that, despite grave national and international problems, did most for the poor of this country, for the underdeveloped areas of this nation and especially for the needy countries in the world.

Merci beaucoup, monsieur le président, mes chers amis.

**Hon. E. F. Whelan (Minister of Agriculture):** Mr. Speaker, I hope you will allow me to congratulate you upon the election to your high position. Having known you as long as I have, I am sure you will bring honour to that position. I should also like to congratulate the mover and the seconder of the address in reply to the Speech from the Throne for their very excellent contributions.

Much has been said of CEMA and marketing boards in general. Let me be the first to say that I am, and always will be as long as I am a member of this House and a farmer, a strong supporter of national marketing boards. I suggest that they very closely represent the true concept of confederation, perhaps more than anything anyone else has attempted in this nation. These marketing boards are composed of producers all across this great land who work together not only for their own good but for the good of society. I say that regardless of what anyone has suggested.