

● (10:00 p.m.)

For example, the task force members were unanimous in their recommendation that the entire area be designated as a special area under the Department of Regional Economic Expansion. The chairman, sensing that this would embarrass his minister refused to go along with the recommendation. The task force is a farce. It is nothing more than political window-dressing. Promises were made to people and their hopes were raised only to be let down with a bang. Some short term jobs were provided, but from a long range point of view nothing has been done. In other words, the entire thing has flopped.

I urge the government and this House to designate the Argentia-Placentia area as a special area under DREE. I urge the minister to stop trying to bluff and insult the people with a task force that has no budget, which has no deadline at which to report and, what is worse, has a biased chairman. I urge the government to undertake immediately a comprehensive study of the economic prospects of the area and then set about to have them developed.

Apart from the great human resources of the area, Placentia Bay is rich in natural resources. For example, the fishery potential of the bay is staggering, and it must be developed. The economic feasibility of harvesting and processing the various marine resources must be ascertained with a view to establishing a multi-purpose fish processing plant in the area. The presence of minerals in the area warrants a survey to determine their extent and economic possibilities. A survey to determine the forest product potential of the area would produce some interesting and exciting prospects. Tourism, if properly developed, would add to the future prospects of the entire area. In that regard, Mr. Speaker, I would like to impress upon the minister the necessity of continuing with the restoration of the Castle Hill historic site.

The Placentia area must not be allowed to wither and die. It has contributed greatly to the economy and to the social and economic life of our country and therefore must not be allowed to wither and die. The social blight that has set in since the phase-down of the U.S. naval station must not be allowed to continue. A government that allows it to continue is not worthy of the trust and confidence reposed in it by the Canadian people.

Historic Placentia and the surrounding area, often referred to by historians as the land of saints and scholars, is begging for survival. Almost 10,000 hardy, independent people boasting of a past that goes back over 400 years are looking to the government for a chance to regain that which they have almost lost, their sense of pride and independence.

Is there a more appropriate place or a more opportune time for the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to make good his promise of a just society? If the Prime Minister and his colleagues are sincere, if their promise of a just society has any real meaning, then the Placentia area is the place, and now is the time.

Mr. Eymard Corbin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of the Environment): Mr. Speaker, in the unavoidable

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absence of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion (Mr. Marchand)—

Mr. McGrath: He just came into the House.

Mr. Corbin:—I shall attempt to allay some of the fears expressed tonight by the hon. member. Perhaps it would be wise to recall the circumstances which brought this particular question before the House. I refer to *Hansard* of May 26, page 6133, where the hon. member is reported as asking this question:

My question is directed to the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, Mr. Speaker. Can the minister tell the House what action he has taken in response to representations made to his department and the Minister of Transport that the chairman of the Argentia task force be asked to resign on the basis that he misled the committee and that he has failed to function?

In the absence of the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, I am informed that the letter which was referred to was brought before the meeting of the Argentia task force on May 26, 1971, and the chairman received a unanimous vote of confidence at that meeting.

We are quite familiar with the problems which the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Carter) exposed to the House tonight, and on behalf of the minister and the government I would like to assure him that they are being seriously examined. Time is of the essence, but the report of the task force must be given serious study before we embark on blind action to solve these important problems.

AIRPORTS—TORONTO—DECISION ON SITE OF NEW FACILITY—POSSIBLE POSTPONEMENT OF ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Robert P. Kaplan (Don Valley): Mr. Speaker, this adjournment debate is used by members who are not satisfied with a minister's answer to questions in the question period. I am on my feet because I am not satisfied with the progress report which the Minister of Transport (Mr. Jamieson) gave yesterday on the status of Toronto airport development. I believe he has been led down the garden path by the government of Ontario. Here is the background.

An hon. Member: Oh, oh!

An hon. Member: Cut that out.

Mr. Kaplan: It is accepted that airport planning is the ultimate responsibility of the federal government but that it is desirable for consultation to take place with other levels of government and for public discussion to take place. After all, a major airport has an important impact on the responsibilities of other governments, and on the citizens. It affects the life and the growth of our city. But the long drawn-out and so far secret negotiations between the Minister of Transport and his Ontario counterpart illustrate the pitfalls of the consultation process.

In the fall of 1968 the federal government was prepared to proceed in Toronto with a substantial Malton airport expansion which it was said would provide for