

The Address—Mr. Rompkey

deal with other workers in so far as unemployment insurance is concerned. This must be, Mr. Speaker; because the Law of the Sea, the limit on fishing, the subsidies to boats to improve boats and gear, and all the other measures that we had designed on behalf of the fishermen will be to no avail if, through something like an inadequate unemployment insurance plan, most of them tie up their boats and go to work at other jobs.

This leads us, Mr. Speaker, to the whole question of the development of rural Canada and northern Canada. We have all been aware for some time now, of increasing urbanization. More and more Canadians are coming to live in cities. They are moving from rural areas, from farms, fishing villages, small communities all over Canada. This has done two things. It has made it necessary to cope with increasingly complex problems in our cities in such matters, for example, as transportation and housing. But this emigration, particularly from Atlantic Canada, has caused what has been called "the brain drain" or what might be described as the erosion of rural Canada. True, some young people who are disenchanted and dissatisfied with the cities and with "the system" are returning to the country or to wilderness areas. But there seems to be little encouragement for many young people to remain in rural communities and little incentive for young people to go to rural communities.

● (1610)

First of all, the cost of living in most cases is much higher, particularly where residents cannot supplement their income by harvesting the resources of the land or the sea. The cause of this to a great degree is high freight rates. People who live at a great distance from manufacturing and supply centers find it doubly difficult to pay for necessary consumer products because of excessively high freight rates. For this reason, I was pleased to see in the Speech from the Throne the promises that steps will be taken to end discrimination in freight rates. This problem, Mr. Speaker, does not exist only in the west. There is discrimination in freight rates in parts of Atlantic Canada as well, indeed even within sections of a province.

Many people in rural and northern Newfoundland and in the Labrador area have, up to now, found it difficult if not impossible to obtain adequate housing. While we have had programs to assist native people, our housing assistance to non-native people has been less than adequate. This is particularly discouraging in burgeoning areas where jobs are available but where jobs go begging because prospective takers cannot obtain or erect adequate accommodation for themselves and their families. However, I notice that the throne speech indicates that measures will be brought forward to provide substantial assistance for rural housing. This is an absolute necessity, Mr. Speaker. Otherwise we will add to the depopulation of rural Canada. But, what is even worse, we will never be able to attract new people to rural and developing areas. This government has always believed in the vision of the new Canada of the north, and there are indications in this speech that that belief is more firmly held than ever.

Transportation is another serious problem, Mr. Speaker, certainly in Newfoundland and particularly in my own riding. We need more and better roads. We need improved air services. We need improved transportation by sea.

[Mr. Rompkey.]

There are still too many parts of rural and northern Canada which are not linked to the rest of the country by road. I could mention those in my own riding, some of which have been completed under DREE. Others, I hope, will be completed in the near future. We must continue our attempt to knit the various parts of this vast country together. The current CBC TV series, "The National Dream", brings home to us once more the need for vision and imagination in the area of transport. Development follows improved transportation. If the people at the extremities of this country, and indeed within provinces, are to feel that they are fellow citizens, they must somehow have better access to one another. We have made great progress in this regard through the Department of Regional Economic Expansion but we still have a long way to go. The department has been a godsend to Newfoundland. It has worked wonders and will continue to do so. Recently a \$5 billion plan was signed with the province of Newfoundland, which is an indication of the support the government of Canada is supplying with regard to the budget of the province. As I say, much more remains to be done.

We need to improve air services. There are communities in rural and northern Canada which will not be connected by road in the foreseeable future. We must ensure that they have access to their fellow Canadians. A great deal of emphasis needs to be put on STOL aircraft in our rural areas. Better aircraft and improved landing facilities are needed to bring goods and services to people in rural areas and to bring them closer to each other. This government has made a tremendous improvement in communication in rural and northern Canada. Still, there is much to be done.

Since the introduction of the satellite, many parts of northern and rural Canada are now connected to television and telephone service. Yet, in a day when we can talk to men on the moon, I still have great difficulty in reaching and talking to people in many parts of my riding by telephone. Actually, some people in my riding do not have any telephone. You communicate with them by means of a high frequency radio set. If you are lucky enough to get them in the first place, the chances are that your conversation will be cut off in the middle. Television in some areas is still non-existent or of an inferior quality. I was pleased to hear the announcement recently that \$80 million is to be spent on the CBC's accelerated coverage plan to bring TV to remote areas. We must provide this kind of communication link to all our people if they are to feel part of the country.

The speech also mentioned measures to be taken to provide workers with improved access to available jobs. The decentralization of government services is essential. The Department of Manpower has already taken steps to set up a more decentralized system of combined Manpower and UIC offices by establishing smaller offices to serve local areas. This is highly desirable and the policy should be continued. Too many still find it is easier to find jobs for themselves than to seek them through Canada Manpower. I believe this decentralization of administration will help to correct that.

Hand in hand with this trend goes the community employment policy in a social security context for those Canadians who have particular and continuing difficulty