Time Allocation

is a very clear example of a situation in which proper ratios are respected.

However, Mr. Speaker, although at this time we do have a very substantial deficit that is raising highbrows in the country, it is probably advisable for the Government, in difficult times such as these, to use the money for specific projects that will be a good investment for several generations. Remember what the United States did during the depression. At that time, the Roosevelt Administration invested funds in basic infrastructures which are still being used today in 1983, and which were built in the 1930s and 1940s.

Here is one example. In Eastern Quebec, including the Gaspé area, people are awaiting the start of an economic recovery program that was announced in 1982 by the Right Hon. Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Trudeau). Part of the funds that will be borrowed will make it possible to invest over $100 million in this area, thus giving the people that have been hardest hit by unemployment in this country a chance to have durable infrastructures and young people a real chance to set up a framework for long and prosperous development.

Often, Hon. Members tend to compare apples and oranges. If we look at Vancouver or Montreal or Toronto, we see that most of the services are in place and that the people who live there have just about everything they need for work and recreation. However, if we look at the remoter areas of this country, to the south, east and west, we see that those areas have been neglected for years, for various reasons. Nevertheless, these people are also entitled to develop their region. The Gaspé program is estimated at about $100 million, funds that will be used to build piers and airports, to stimulate the local fishing industry and make it competitive, and to offer young people a future that will be worthwhile.

There is also the Kirby Report which was tabled in the House a few weeks ago and contains 57 recommendations. In its working hypotheses it urges injecting $200 million into the fisheries in eastern Canada to make the industry competitive and thus create new jobs and access to new markets. These are very specific proposals. Furthermore, there are regions in eastern Canada that lack certain infrastructures, and that is where we are going to invest the amounts Parliament is being asked to ratify.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps we could consider the airport situation in the riding of Bonaventure-Îles-de-la-Madeleine. For years, the Îles-de-la-Madeleine airport was abandoned. A while ago, the Department of Transport invested millions of dollars to make the airport suitable for both passengers and airlines, in order to simplify access and to stimulate economic activity in that area. The same applies to airports on the Middle and Lower North Shore, and I am thinking of the airports at Havre-St-Pierre, Chèverie and Lourdes-du-Blanc-Sablon, airports which were practically non-existent. Granted, an airport 3,500 feet long costs an average of between $4 million and $4.5 million. So at this stage, the Government needs money to build these infrastructures. Mr. Speaker, if we

borrow the money, for these infrastructures, they will last for ten, fifteen or twenty years. That is what we should consider. If the money were borrowed just to pay current outstanding debts, that would be unacceptable. However, the money is going to be used for capital investment and the result will be an asset to the country.

Mr. Speaker, the same applies to piers. Both in the East and the West, there are structures that have been abandoned. The people want to participate in the country's economic recovery, and they need infrastructures. With these funds we will be able to improve existing facilities and create new ones to help vital sectors of our economy develop as they should.

As I was saying a while ago, this Parliament's greatest problem is that hon. Members opposite are bankrupt of ideas. Canadians, therefore, do not want us to hear about deficits, but would rather consider the challenges which may result from the present situation. One needs only compare that situation with that in the United States, France and also Great Britain to realize that the problems are just about the same. What really matters at this stage is for us to properly manage the negative growth, the recession, in order to come out of it with the best possible record as regards individual and corporate citizens as well as the Government.

I suggest, therefore, that if Hon. Members opposite want to act in a responsible manner, they should make an effort to offer solutions, show imagination, because imagination is exactly what is needed to start the economy moving again. For the time being, opposition Members are satisfied with rehashing the same old stories dealing with hypothetical situations, without ever coming up with worthwhile remedies. I hope the Progressive Conservative Party Leadership Convention will bring out new ideas to ensure Canada's prosperity for now and the future. When one compares our situation in Canada with that of other countries—I see a number of opposition Members who travelled abroad recently—one soon realizes that Canada is better off than other countries coming out of this crisis. It is always easy to scare people with prophecies of doom and gloom.

Mr. Speaker, I think that the worst part of the crisis is over and that we must look to the future, with the hope that the borrowing power the Government is now seeking will accomplish what the opposition parties and Hon. Members on both sides of the House really want, namely, new jobs and the economic recovery of this country.

Mr. Speaker, there are important projects on the North Shore which have been shelved for many years and which the Government wants to see moving again with this money. There are for instance the Pointe-Noire project, the fishing development in Port-Cartier, the Schefferville Recreation Center—which already has the support of the federal Government which pays its administrative costs—the Schefferville Ski Resort, and the reason the Government is stepping in is