

The Address—Mr. Jamieson

that was capable of instant implementation. That conference revealed what surely could have been expected in advance, namely, that there is a wide range of thinking on the subject that there are differences of opinion as to the approach which should be taken. There is no concensus among members opposite or, for that matter, among members of the party to which I belong, as to the precise mechanism which can be employed in order to lick the problem of poverty. Therefore, I suggest it is wrong to pretend that there are instant solutions.

Similarly, the Leader of the Opposition and many other hon. members from eastern Canada recognize that there are no simple answers in the field of economic development; that it is not enough for one's heart to be in the right place. We have witnessed many demonstrations of this, none more revealing than the experience with the heavy water plant at Glace Bay. Can anyone question the fact that the New Democratic Party has no instant solutions? It is apparent at this very moment in Winnipeg that a classic confrontation is taking place between various elements in that party over the question of foreign domination. The leader of the NDP, speaking in this House not more than two or three days ago, criticized the government for being too soft on foreign ownership. But his former colleague in this House, now the distinguished premier of Manitoba, having been faced with the realities of office says he is not one who wants to threaten foreign capital; that far from being any kind of a menace he is a small "1" liberal. In fact, he is wooing that kind of capital.

It is very easy simply to lambaste the government and assume that the shortest route to power lies not in the direct articulation of alternative policies, which are then open to questioning, but rather in a continuous assault on the actions and policies of the government. This is fair ball, of course, and nobody argues about that. It is a perfectly legitimate function of the opposition to adopt such a role. Nevertheless, it is an inadequate role and if it never rises from that level surely what will happen is that eventually—and I am being presumptuous enough to risk giving a little advice to the opposition—the public will realize, as it has done repeatedly over the years, that no alternative is being offered and that those who are merely ridiculing what is being attempted are not worthy of public support.

Let me now say something that is of great concern to me personally in this connection. I

[Mr. Jamieson.]

refer to fishery problems in Newfoundland. I give hon. members opposite full credit for having as much concern as I do for the needs of this area. A year ago there was in this House a tremendous discussion on fishery matters. The kind of discussion that took place was all too familiar. Nearly 500 years ago when John Cabot sailed into Newfoundland waters for the first time he reported that the cod were so numerous that one could catch them in a bucket weighted with stones. I suspect that if hon. members opposite from Newfoundland had been around at that time—and I confess there are occasions when I almost believe they were—the first thing they would have done would be to demand that we give Cabot a subsidy. At the very least they would have suggested that in some way or another we should reduce the price of baskets and of stones.

This has been the conventional, traditional approach ever since. In fact, what happened a year ago illustrates what I have in mind. Because the fishing industry was in very bad shape there were persistent and numerous demands for additional millions of dollars to be poured into the sinkhole of fishing subsidies. To his credit, the Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Davis) resisted that demand. He took what was obviously a more difficult path in seeking to get at the root cause of the problem. As a result of that forward-planning a special price support program was introduced in order to assist the fresh fish industry which since then has experienced a pronounced strengthening of markets. This situation has almost completely reversed the prospects of many of the fresh fish plants in the sense that while they were near bankruptcy a year ago, a great many of them have a chance to make a reasonable profit this year.

Mr. Lundrigan: May I ask the minister a question?

Mr. Jamieson: If the hon. member would not mind waiting until I am through, I will answer all questions then.

There are, of course, serious problems still facing the industry but we have made what I believe to be the most significant progress in 20 years in terms of the outlook for fresh frozen fish. This year we shall be introducing the concept of a salt cod marketing and development corporation. All this is an illustration of the fact that an orderly approach to the solutions of these problems does work.

Another thing this demonstrates—and it should be of interest to all hon. members—is that by obtaining greater co-operation from