

[Text]

these visits in certain areas. I think that by so doing we are creating better understanding; we are communicating with people and this has been our policy. I think it also created better understanding amongst all the members of the Committees.

The Chairman: Thank you, Mr. Guay. Have you any questions, Mr. Nystrom? I am just running right around the table John, and then we will be finished. Have you any questions that you would like to ask Lorne?

Mr. Nystrom: No, not at this time anyway. Thank you, no questions.

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The Chairman: Fine. Mr. Burton.

Mr. Burton: Mr. Chairman, I was just going to comment that I think one of the points that emerged as a result of our tour is the value and the importance of hearing two sides of the problems we are dealing with. By the very nature of the situations that we are involved in and of the problems which the Department is tackling they involve very difficult social and economic problems. I think it is very important that we have an adequate understanding of the philosophy and planning and programming of the government in its approach to the various programs; also that at the same time we have an opportunity to see the other side of the picture; seeing the way people feel about it; to see what their reactions are to it; to see how they are affected by it. Both of these I think are quite essential to an adequate understanding of the programs. Thus, I think the tours do provide a very good opportunity to have direct contact with people.

In some specific instances, such as our chance to have some contact with the officials of the Cape Breton Development Corporation, we hear something of the government's side of the picture as well in terms of their approach to problems. I very strongly urge that we have in planning for activities for another year—this I believe will be our last meeting dealing with Estimates, as such—but I do hope that it will be possible to arrange for meetings of the Committee at an earlier date next year where we can, in fact, go into each of the various programs that the Department is involved in where we can have an adequate discussion of these programs dealing in depth in terms of the policy considerations.

Just one more aspect that I feel requires consideration as well is that there has been an adequate opportunity for full discussion of

[Interpretation]

Le président: Merci, monsieur Guay. Avez-vous des questions, monsieur Nystrom? Je vais simplement demander à chaque membre s'il a une question à faire, puis nous en aurons fini, John. Avez-vous des questions, monsieur Lorne?

M. Nystrom: Pas en ce moment en tout cas. Merci, pas de questions.

Le président: Très bien. Monsieur Burton.

M. Burton: Notre voyage a permis de souligner l'importance qu'il y a à entendre les deux sons de cloche au sujet des questions que nous examinons. Celles-ci, de par leur nature même, à l'instar des problèmes dont traite le ministère, revêtent des aspects socio-économiques complexes. Il est important de comprendre l'esprit et la planification des programmes gouvernementaux relatifs à ces situations et, en même temps, d'entendre les arguments de la population, son point de vue, connaître ses sentiments et ses réactions et les effets dont elle se ressent. Ce sont tous là des éléments importants pour la compréhension des programmes; les voyages facilitent ce résultat.

Dans certains cas, comme celui de nos entretiens avec les représentants de la société de développement du Cap Breton, il nous a été possible d'entendre le point de vue des autorités gouvernementales. Je propose que nous établissions un calendrier d'activités pour l'an prochain. Je crois que notre réunion d'aujourd'hui est la dernière qui traite des prévisions budgétaires. Nous espérons que les séances de l'année prochaine soient tenues plus tôt afin de nous permettre une étude en profondeur des programmes intéressant notre Comité et les lignes de conduite qui s'y rapportent.

Un dernier aspect important a trait aux discussions sur l'élaboration des nouveaux programmes, et je me réfère tout particulière-