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recognize that we have had large and very substantial increases in inquiries into the possibilities which exist in the Atlantic provinces. We recognize that there are no quick fixes to 23 years of Liberal mismanagement.

We recognize that in order to ensure our long-term credibility and viability, a new approach is required. That is what we have undertaken to do. The budget measures announced by the Minister of Finance (Mr. Wilson) last May as well as the amendments and comments he has made from time to time indicate that the entrepreneurial spirit will be the driving force in Canada and particularly in Atlantic Canada. Small business will be encouraged by the \$500,000 capital gains tax exemption.

It comes to mind very quickly that there was a notable deficiency in the remarks made by my friend, the Hon. Member for Cape Breton-East Richmond. He spoke about all of Atlantic Canada but he neglected to mention one geographical location. I refer to his own riding and the constituencies in the area of Cape Breton. There we have undertaken the most daring initiatives which have ever been undertaken by any Government in Canada to encourage industry to invest. The tax havens and the incentives which have been put in place there have compelled and attracted more inquiries for one geographical area in six months with regard to investment possibilities and employment opportunities than in any other area of Canada. Indeed, some of the results have already been shown. We are not very happy with what has occurred in that area today. It takes a long time for a company to determine what possibilities are available, what financing is available and what the strength of the labour force is.

● (1220)

People always ask the question: "What about the people?" What this Government is saying is that we believe in people. Canada is not just woods, forests and mountains; it is all of that, and we are blessed with those resources. However, Canada is people. My colleague, the Minister of State for Forestry, other Atlantic Ministers, all our colleagues and I myself can testify and say to the House that we believe in equality in capability and the entrepreneurial spirit of Atlantic Canadians. We know that they can take the opportunities which we are presenting to them and that they will capitalize on them over the long term to the benefit of all Atlantic Canada.

The Hon. Member opposite has come out of the bottle after seven years in the House on behalf of Atlantic Canada, after having sat on this side and after having failed to do something when he was in an ostensible position of influence. We say to the House that we recognize that, given the opportunity, Atlantic Canadians can respond. We will reduce their dependency from 80 per cent and 90 per cent to something approximating the national average. It is a matter of the entitlement of Atlantic Canada to participating fully in Confederation on an equal level. I am not speaking of doing this through subsidies, unemployment insurance or welfare. Atlantic Canadians are proud. They recognize that they have the brains, and have

been obliged to export them because there has been a lack of incentives. There has not been the opportunity to create possibilities in Atlantic Canada because the former Government and those Hon. Members opposite who have spoken this morning failed to respond when the need was so apparent.

I would now like to deal more particularly with what has happened in some of the Atlantic provinces. I have spoken of the general situation. However, in order to ensure that the entrepreneurial spirit and private sector employment will take place, we have fertilized the climate in these particular provinces and we have put in place certain programs. Obviously, there will be a tremendous increase in employment opportunities in Newfoundland in terms of the offshore. There will be opportunities in Nova Scotia as a result of the new frontier policies which were recently announced by the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney). The Government of Newfoundland almost seceded from Confederation when it endeavoured time after time and year after year to secure an agreement with the federal Government relative to the resources which so rightly belong to it. In less than one year in office this Government consummated an agreement to ensure that the resources and the employment opportunities will stay with Newfoundland. We have said: "It is yours". Plans are now under way to fulfil that mission.

In addition to that, a \$300 million development fund has been given to the Province of Newfoundland in order to enhance its employment opportunities and in order to bring its oil and gas on shore. In addition, in Newfoundland, there was an injection of \$93 million into Fishery Products International for the purpose of putting it on a competitive basis and ensuring its long-term viability. That was a grant of funds by this Government to a company in a province which is deserving. Given the five-year plan which was before us, we have been enassured that it will be able to compete on a national and international level and that the subsidies which have been given to it year after year will be reduced and new wealth will be created in the province. Indeed, it will be the mission in the long-term objective of Newfoundlanders and, indeed, of all Atlantic Canadians, to pay more taxes. They want to pay income tax because that means they are enjoying prosperity. That is the opportunity we wish to give them.

Only this week in Cape Breton my colleague, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens), announced a new Cape Breton Enterprise Development Agency. We have given a tax holiday and tax incentives to Cape Breton, but in order to ensure that opportunities are promulgated and made known to all Canadians and other investors from other lands, this particular agency has been given a mandate of \$25 million to ensure that the world knows of the possibilities for this particular area. Up to this time there has been some difficulty in knowing what was available by way of Government programs because such a mish-mash of relief and assistance had been advanced over the past few years that no one really knew what was available at any particular time to any particular investor. Thus, one-stop shopping has been created by the establishment of this particular agency.