

and become totally irresponsible in drawing attention to this matter, I would consider that to be worth while.

There is another matter on which I should like to touch. It concerns a situation that is not at all parochial. It shows the effect on the over-all economic problems when the Canadian economy is slowed down. When I was a very young Canadian, most of the people from my community and the surrounding communities would leave in the spring of the year to go to Toronto. They became expert in the construction field. They obtained seasonal employment. Many of these people became expert in lathing, steelwork and other construction activities. Over a period of time they picked up great knowledge and experience.

These people were well rewarded. They received the large salaries that were received by the people in central Canada. They would leave their small communities on the east coast to travel to the more affluent and advanced parts of Canada. Today the people in these parts of Canada cannot provide employment for their own dependants. Consequently, when employment slows down in slow-growth areas the people in those areas have to stay at home. No matter how affluent the people are, they have to tolerate the devastating effects of the unemployment situation. I want to emphasize this because it shows that what we have today is certainly not a provincial but a national problem.

**Hon. Allan J. MacEachen (Minister of Manpower and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, I certainly do not wish to say that the hon. member for Gander-Twillingate (Mr. Lundrigan) has rocks in his head, as he suggested I might. I found his comments to be constructive and I thank him for the well-deserved reference to the members of the Canada Manpower centres in Newfoundland and the other provinces who are working at the grass-roots, and not in a theoretical or speculative way, with the problems of the people in all the communities of Canada.

• (4:20 p.m.)

I appreciate his comments about the problems of the Atlantic provinces because it is obvious to all of us that the economies of certain parts of Canada, including the Atlantic provinces, have not created inflation. But as the battle against inflation is waged, the Atlantic provinces are bound to be affected, and because they are weak areas of the country they are bound to be affected more

*Alleged Failure of Employment Policies* adversely. It seems to me that the moral of the debate is that all of us have a definite interest in the success of the battle against inflation in Canada. Our long-term objective is to maintain and accelerate economic growth in the country, and no part of the country has a greater stake in long-term economic growth than the less developed parts. The long-term growth of Canada is threatened at present by inflation, and unless we succeed as a country in licking the problem, the consequences to which my hon. friend has referred will be even more apparent and more difficult.

I regret that I was unable to hear the hon. member for Broadbent—

**An hon. Member:** Oshawa-Whitby.

**Mr. MacEachen:** —the hon. member for Waterloo.

**Some hon. Members:** Oshawa-Whitby.

**Mr. MacEachen:** I am sorry—the hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby (Mr. Broadbent). I know him by his ability and his intelligence, not by his name or his constituency. Anyway, I regret not having heard his speech. I would have stayed in Ottawa had I not arranged a meeting this morning with the Premier of Nova Scotia to convey to him the official response of the government of Canada to his request for assistance in the rehabilitation of the heavy water plant at Glace Bay. That was an important decision in terms of the development of Nova Scotia and the Atlantic provinces. The amount of federal assistance in various forms is in excess of \$40 million. This certainly is an indication of the interest of the federal government in supporting the provinces, and especially the weaker provinces.

The question put to the House is that the manpower policies are ineffective and discriminatory. I want to deal with the expression “ineffective and discriminatory” later, but in addition to that charge there is the general suggestion that the economic and development policies of the government as a whole are ineffective. It may be the weakness of the motion that it overstates the case. So often in the House of Commons a case is lost because it is overstated.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** The minister should know that.

**Mr. MacEachen:** This is certainly an instance where an attack has been launched against one of the most effective and best