

am prepared to allow that they know what they are talking about—that all is not well.

By simply pouring, say, another \$100 million into a sick institution we are not accomplishing much for the institution and we are certainly not making the best possible use of the \$100 million. Of course, I have no doubt that the bill will be passed. Politics enter into these considerations and I realize that a political decision will be made in the end. However, I am interested not so much in the politics of the decision as in whether we are doing the right thing by passing this bill, in light of the charges which have been made, supposing that those charges reflect the opinions of the people in the area most directly concerned. The bill refers to \$100 million. I do not believe that in Canada we have this kind of money to throw away.

I have been shocked by what I have read, and seen on television, in connection with the heavy water plant. I know this was intended as a big experiment likely to provide additional industry in Nova Scotia. It was felt that a plant of this kind could lead to the establishment of many subsidiary industries in the area and would serve as a base for industrial development. It has not done this. Similarly, we were given to understand that by establishing Devco we were establishing a national agency which would take over from the former owners of the coal industry and provide the people of the area with a viable economic base—an industrial base capable of expansion.

The people who live in the area have a right to assistance, in my opinion, and I believe the people of Canada generally are willing to provide such assistance. But I, for one, am unwilling to provide \$100 million as a basis for industrial development if the arrangements which have been established do not appear to be working.

The situation is comparable to that of the Company of Young Canadians, to the extent that one can let things ride for so long, in fact, until poor administration and bad management destroy the principle which it was intended to establish. Something like this is happening in the case of Devco. The minister may not have talked to the people who live in this area. Cape Breton people are, I know, highly political and extremely vocal in expressing their opinions, so this may be a highly political issue.

Nevertheless, if this agency is not working in the opinion of the average guy employed in the mines, or if the man who has been laid

Cape Breton Development Corporation Act off and finds himself unemployed feels that the program is not in his interest, we have not done the right thing. In that case we do not need more, but less of it and we should set up a thorough investigation to find out whether the charges which have been made today are correct.

I listened to the speech of my hon. friend from York South (Mr. Lewis). He has visited Cape Breton Island many times and has many connections with the mineworkers' unions and other organizations there. Others among my hon. friends also have personal knowledge of conditions there. They are all of the opinion that the charges which we have heard are correct that there are abuses in the management of Devco and that the corporation has failed to produce the results it was established to produce. In these circumstances, the provision of another \$100 million in borrowing power will not improve the situation.

In coming to Parliament for additional powers at this time, the corporation should be prepared to provide Parliament with an assessment of what has been accomplished to date. In what way has it eased the problems existing in the mining industry? Further, the corporation should provide Parliament with an indication of what use it intends to make of the resources which we are being asked to provide. If these things cannot be done, I think we would be well advised to vote against this legislation.

I am well aware of the consequences for the people of the maritimes, particularly of Cape Breton, who are in desperate straits. There has been little expansion of industry in the region; a large proportion of the population has moved from the island, leaving behind people who cannot easily be retrained to take employment in new enterprises. Devco was established to eliminate these problems, but apparently has been unsuccessful.

● (8:20 p.m.)

I suggest that the minister is shouldering a dual responsibility. I also suggest he may get into a great deal of trouble with me in the future in light of his background, which has consisted of working in the interests of those who have not had their share of the good life. In this regard he has accomplished things. He has, I am sure, been able considerably to raise the standard of living of those he has represented. In doing so he has also been able to increase his own ability and knowledge.

Now he has a personal responsibility to the people we want to help, and his knowledge of