

In many cases these communities were asked to make contributions and to participate as municipalities in the government development. They did not want the government to build a fence around the facility because then nobody would associate with the facility, and as a result they were sucked into setting up such things as recreational facilities and the like. One facility which almost all communities provided was firefighting equipment. Now with the government gone they can no longer afford it. In many cases we are talking about a community with approximately 20 families, and in some cases less, but they were stuck with being big sister to a relatively larger facility having probably more employees than the community had citizens.

Now the government has gone. My hon. friend, the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Jupp), has said, "let them go. We are not giving them welfare". In the first place it was the government that wanted the bases, and if the communities had been hostile it would have had a heck of a time moving into those areas. The people of these communities could have made it very difficult. The reason the bases were chosen was because it was best that the bases be located in areas where the radar would be most efficient. Now the government is saying, "Don't worry about them; they do not need handouts, it is not the Conservative way". I suggest that the hon. member will find, after he has been here for a while, that there are other things besides philosophy. There are such things as geography, and what is good for Mississauga is not necessarily good for Sioux Lookout, Lowther and Freemont. The situation is not the same.

● (1740)

It would not be satisfactory in Toronto. I remember many years ago, when you went up Yonge Street and north of Toronto on a streetcar, by the time you got to where Highway 401 is now, you were picking up milk cans and chickens, and after that you went on to Thornhill and Aurora. Now it is very hard to find those communities at all—they are downtown, and every time you go there are another ten buildings. I suppose the hon. member does not have to worry about it. He has enough trouble keeping the water system and the sewers and the streets growing fast enough to keep up with the population.

That is not the problem in most communities in northern Ontario, Mr. Speaker. We are just trying to service the ones we were asked to build as a favour to somebody else. We were anticipating, as we always do, the ultimate—that they were going to be there forever and we thought we could probably help them out by providing these facilities. We are not asking very much in this motion when we ask that those areas that have been asked to make that kind of contribution now receive a contribution that would be very valuable to the wind-down of those communities.

In your own case, Mr. Speaker, you may represent an urban area where you would find this to be a Mickey Mouse concession. You would find it to be undesirable and regressive. In fact, it would tie up property for one or two years and you

could not get the high taxes out of it that you now do, so you would have to find a substitute for what may have been a long-term contract with the federal government, producing a limited revenue. This could be the situation in northern Ontario, in many cases.

If this motion is accepted the cost will not be very much, but it will certainly benefit those very, very small communities that have made a contribution, as Canadians, to the defence of this country. This is particularly so in the case of radar bases. These were built in very small isolated communities where, to the best of their ability, the people provided the services for the military personnel resident there and participating in community life. We are only asking for a small contribution from the general purse to assist the communities in the one, two or five-year periods when they are winding up their business.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Keith Penner (Cochrane):** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have seconded the motion of the hon. member for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke (Mr. Hopkins). In my opinion, the motion addresses itself in a substantive way to a very real problem which exists from time to time in parts of this country. I think the response of the hon. member for Mississauga North (Mr. Jupp) was nothing more than a bookkeeper's response to a very serious human and social problem that, from time to time, exists in the isolated and less advantaged regions of this country.

In terms of this debate, I am much more in sympathy with the words of the hon. member for Timiskaming (Mr. Peters) who, with myself, shares with these communities the kind of agony and travail that they go through when there is a closure of one kind or another, be it a radar base, a small or large industry. We know, all too well, the sense of crisis that develops whenever this happens.

As my contribution to this debate, I think instead of speaking in generalities I should share with the House what could loosely be described as a case study. I lived through the closure of a radar base in a small, unorganized community in a constituency that I represented for more than ten years. It is no longer in my riding, because of the readjustment of the boundary lines. I am referring, of course, to the Canadian forces station at Armstrong, Ontario, a radar station. I know the hon. member for Timiskaming is fully conversant with the problems that existed as a result of that closure. The manner in which it was done can only be described as shameful.

It is true that there was a great deal of good will and a lot of fine intentions displayed by government departments at the time the community was going through this agony. But, sir, good will and fine intentions did not result in any positive action. A \$1 million payroll was lost to this small community, and there was no time for adaptation to the change, for adjustment to the new situation. Civilian employees of the Department of National Defence who did not want to move or could not move, were left without jobs. Those who were prepared to move and had relatively inexpensive housing in Armstrong were asked to go to some other part of Canada.