

Supply

talking about markets that can be developed, such as the Caribbean basin, South America and Africa. That is Atlantic Canada's natural target area. It seems to me that for a relatively minor investment with the technology we have available to us we could identify those markets and their needs. I think we could be highly competitive.

As a Nova Scotian and a Canadian I would like to see the disparity between our regions end. I would like to see our accounts balanced in one way or another. We are net importers of our food. In Atlantic Canada, we have a \$4 billion challenge in agriculture alone just to meet our own needs. I would like to see us meet those. I would like us to be able to settle the accounts of our own Atlantic provinces. We are out of balance in our own four Atlantic provinces. While some are more out of balance than others, collectively we are out of balance with the rest of the country. In fact, we are so out of balance that it will not be good enough to continue with the traditional, slowly evolving process.

• (1750)

I commend to the Government and those interested the idea of putting some seed money to work in national research, through a professional resource or institutional process, that could be put to use in Atlantic Canada to develop that type of product which is required there with traditional Canadian materials. We could identify the amount of research money required for the development of the products that we determine are necessary and then get on with the small infrastructure that would support that development.

We need permanent long-term jobs. While jobs at minimum wage and summer jobs are helpful, our young married families need jobs. If we are talking in terms of \$100 billion in export sales, I suggest we could use \$2 billion of that in areas that we could identify in Atlantic Canada. I commend that thought to my colleagues.

I make these suggestions because as I have watched DREE and its programs evolve over the years, I have not been able to forget a conversation that I had around 1963 with two gentlemen who were asked by the government of the day to prepare the next logical step in Mr. Diefenbaker's Atlantic development concept. That is where this evolution began. I thought it very strange and somewhat sad at the time, and still do, when they told me that the terms of reference with respect to their work clearly indicated that they were open-ended with no restrictions. Their only guideline was to devise programs that would quickly return the money they would have to spend in Atlantic Canada back to central Canada. That was their interpretation of the comprehensive guidelines. They were to devise programs but at the same time ensure that the money spent gets back to central Canada.

I suppose that I am not old enough to be so cynical as to believe that that is the cause of the failure of the programs. But it is certain that the programs have failed and the gap is widening. The so-called brain drain is still there. It is not that our children want to leave but that they must leave. This particular suggestion may not work and it might not be

possible to achieve it. However, if we are going to attempt to establish various programs, let us try to see if there is an institutional process which could examine this proposal to see if it can be used. If it does prove favourable, it can be funded and we can begin to create those needed jobs.

Atlantic Canadians today, as I suppose they were 50 or 100 years ago, are proud people. We do not like being in debt. We do not like to say jokingly that everything is fine, just keep the money coming and keep the transfer accounts as high as possible. We are not accustomed to living like that, nor are we accustomed to hand-outs. On the other hand, we cannot always do things for ourselves that we know must be done.

It is to address that problem that I urge the House to contemplate offshore trade seriously. In one area alone, we spend 10 per cent of the value of goods on their transportation. Probably 80 per cent of that, with respect to export, is waterborne costs. Therefore, there is a possible recovery of \$6 billion or \$7 billion alone if we had the nerve to strive for our own offshore fleet. This would mean a re-emergence and gradual regrowth of a Canadian merchant marine, which would be a start in itself. Perhaps there is a conceptual approach within that suggestion.

I am simply saying that funds are available. As well, there is a private sector responsibility with respect to the development of offshore activity in trade. Perhaps there is even a greater responsibility by Government. But it is from Parliament that the lead must come.

The only observation I wanted to make with respect to the debate today is that the issue we are discussing is serious. We must find a way to overcome the difficulties of employment. Unemployment among our black community is a perfect example. Re-entry into the labour force for black women who have left it to raise a family is probably 1,000 times as difficult as it is for white women. We are not addressing that problem. Let us attempt to find in offshore development and trade a means of creating jobs to give these people a hope that is rightfully theirs.

I appreciate the time that the House has given in listening to me. I ask the House only to give my remarks some thought.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I enjoyed the Hon. Member's address very much. I regret that the Minister responsible was not here to listen to some of these excellent suggestions.

The Hon. Member talked about the necessity for training and deplored the lack of training. How can we expect to have this training when Bill C-12 reduced the amount of post-secondary entitlements for the four Maritime provinces by \$24.8 billion over one year ago? Since it is reduced, how will we catch up with training?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Guilbault): Order. It being six o'clock, it is my duty to inform the House that, pursuant to Standing Order 26(11), proceedings on the motion have expired.