

Supply

is not very happy with debate and discussion within the House, so I am pleased to actually see him today. It is not often that he is prepared to participate in such important debates, I fear, in view of his predilection for getting controversial legislation passed fast.

This is a motion on Atlantic Canada. Atlantic Canada is a part of this country where our action group spent a good deal of time and learned a good deal. It is a part of the country where we found the tragedy of unemployment to be particularly severe and particularly sad. I want to begin my contribution today with a quotation from a report by the Social Justice Network of Sydney, Nova Scotia. It talks about one of the underemphasized sides of the unemployment crisis, about the fact that it is not just parents who bear the brunt of the unemployment crisis but children as well. I quote:

● (1410)

We have noticed that children's reactions to unemployment are similar to those of adults, these being apathy, boredom, depression, a sense of loss, worry, anxiety, defeat and resignation. We feel that like their parents, children who are exposed for long periods of time to unemployment are at risk of becoming emotionally unstable.

Those are the human costs that face us as we talk today about the problems of Atlantic Canada.

In his contribution the Minister suggested that the bottom line is jobs and job performance. I agree with him. Obviously Conservative Members who applauded his words so vigorously also agree. We must look first at that bottom line. What that bottom line tells us is that for all four Atlantic provinces, the unemployment rate has gone up dramatically since this Government took office.

In the case of Newfoundland, the unemployment rate is as high as 24.6 per cent as compared with 23.3 per cent a year ago. In Prince Edward Island, the unemployment rate is now 17.6 per cent as compared with 15.9 per cent a year ago. In Nova Scotia, it is now 17.3 per cent as compared with 15 per cent a year ago. In New Brunswick, it is now 19.9 per cent as compared with 17.6 per cent a year ago. Some bottom line! In social accounting terms and in terms of human costs and benefits, that is a sad story indeed.

I do not want to deal only with the gloomy facts although those facts themselves are gloomy enough. I would like to suggest to Hon. Members here today that there is a positive direction in which we as a Parliament can proceed. This direction will give the people of Atlantic Canada and indeed the people of the entire country a sense of hope and confidence for the future.

In the action group report released by our Party early in April, we laid out a series of commitments to community self-direction, to building on our resources, to corporate accountability and to equity in the workforce which would provide a direction for this country and a hope for Atlantic Canada. I recommend these commitments to government Members as they look to their own Budget later this month.

The direction we laid out in that report speaks directly to the potential of Atlantic Canada, a potential that we ourselves

saw in Newfoundland when we heard the ideas and plans for fishing co-operatives expressed to us by the fishermen's union in Newfoundland. We have seen these ideas transformed into direct concrete action in the case of New Dawn Enterprises of Cape Breton Island, a co-operative which has provided jobs and hope to that community. This potential was expressed to us by members of the Federation of Woodlot Owners of New Brunswick who told us in detail how switching funds to them for reforestation could get the trees we need for our future industries and could give us more jobs.

We saw that potential in the messages that came to us about the accountability of a company like Noranda, a company which has taken so much out of the Province of New Brunswick but, when asked to pay it back by making one commitment, a commitment to provide a zinc refinery in that province, played political games for years and finally turned down the request. We see that potential in the Indian communities of New Brunswick with which we spoke just last month after our action group report was released. People in those communities told us that this report did provide a focus on their needs which they had not seen from previous Governments. It is possible to take a positive direction. This positive direction is one which must reverse the kinds of policies which were followed by the previous Government.

We in this country have had ten years of trickle-down economics. It has not worked. We have had ten years of attempts to get the economy moving by giving extra breaks to those who are well off. It is time to take a trickle-up approach. For ten years we have been putting our trust as a country in the hands of Ottawa bureaucrats and the large corporate sector. That has not worked either. It is time to trust people and their communities across this country. For ten years we have been cutting our trade barriers, supposedly to help our economy. That has backfired. It is time to use our trade barriers as levers to help us win a position in the tough international economy.

We in this Party have looked for practical and positive ways to use a trickle-up approach and to put trust into our communities. We see a way that this can be accomplished in the very Budget that will come down this month. We could give to the people of Canada the tax breaks they deserve. We have suggested that \$2.7 billion in tax help be given to middle and lower income earners rather than to the corporate sector and the wealthy of the country. We have suggested that there be a clear set of expenditures for community initiatives which would give communities across the country the capacity to put into reality their dreams. These are dreams of new small business ventures, of new co-operative ventures, of municipal ventures and of improving resources within communities. Our young people have dreams of making jobs for themselves. However, this is not going to just happen; it takes leadership and a Government that provides that leadership.

As well, we have suggested that \$1.1 billion be spent on resource upgrading, that \$200 million be spent on the forestry sector and that \$150 million be spent on the fishery sector. This is the kind of positive commitment which the previous