

*Adjournment Debates*

boat. Regulations recently put into effect, which according to steamship inspectors have nothing to do with safety and are not wanted by fishermen or builders, have resulted in ships deemed to be over 15 tons costing about 15 per cent more. In one fell swoop another \$1,500 is taken out of the pockets of the fishermen who are only earning about \$5,000 a year.

I would ask the committee to consider carefully the effect of multiplying government regulation in relation to the increasing cost of food and of doing business in Canada.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** Order, please. Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** The question is on the main motion as amended. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the said motion?

**Some hon. Members:** On division.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** The main motion is carried on division.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** As amended.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Laniel):** The main motion as amended is carried on division.

Motion (Mr. Gray) agreed to.

**PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION**

A motion to adjourn the House under Standing Order 40 deemed to have been moved.

**REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION—REQUEST FOR EXPLANATION OF DISAPPEARANCE OF CERTAIN JOBS**

**Mr. Elmer M. MacKay (Central Nova):** Mr. Speaker, recently in answer to my question concerning the apparent disappearance of approximately 3,800 jobs for which the government claimed credit through DREE projects, the minister said he owed it to the public to explain what occurred. Pursuant to the minister's professed intentions in this regard, I have some suggestions by which more information could be made available from his department.

I suggest that section 16 of the Regional Development Incentives Act be amended so that reports can be issued every month regardless of whether or not parliament is sitting. If DREE is going to turn out press releases outlining the various new jobs allegedly created, information should also be made available showing whether companies refused initial offers of the approved grants or whether they were withdrawn by the department at a later date. Monthly reports should have a table showing, by province, the net accepted projects, expected eligible capital costs, the estimated expected new direct jobs and

[Mr. Haliburton.]

the estimated incentives. The minister should also follow the advice offered to his predecessor and prepare a table showing regional levels of unemployment in relation to the amount of grants awarded in each region of the country. Not that unemployment levels should be the sole criterion, but they are relevant factors.

• (2200)

Reports pursuant to section 16 should be published each month in the same way as statistics on employment and statistics on the consumer price index, to form part of a co-ordinated total economic picture. Efforts should be made to determine if Statistics Canada could assess the DREE figures. I would think the minister would be glad to have Statistics Canada do this because it would give his department more credibility; something this government and this department needs badly. There is something incongruous about DREE assessing its own performance.

Mr. Speaker, speaking of performance, and owing an explanation to the public, may I say through you to the minister that we are waiting for an explanation of exactly what he means by the term "decentralization". The switching of bureaucrats from Ottawa to the local level could simply be an empty exercise unless accompanied by a restructuring of present programs. There are qualified people at the scene who know local conditions and what needs to be done. Shipping out DREE personnel and retaining highly paid consultants is unnecessary. I believe that municipal, civic and regional planning agencies should be invited to submit local development plans to DREE, which could facilitate plans which have merit by dealing through the provinces and expediting with them development schemes.

Special area agreements are administered by joint planning committees, with representation from the federal and provincial governments. If meaningful decentralization is to take place, it would be well to give municipalities greater representation on these joint planning committees. The federal government should be prudent in maintaining a proper check through DREE on the funds allocated through special area agreements. However, its role should be more of a conciliator and facilitator between the province and the municipality instead of playing the role of an economic czar. There must be more co-ordination between DREE and other federal and provincial government departments and development agencies. Transportation problems must be taken into account. For example, DREE cannot work to expand the economy of this nation if other government departments are trying to slow it down, as was the case when the former minister was in charge of this department.

It may be necessary to establish a more independent review board, like an advisory board to a bank or a trust company, instead of the present quasi-judicial one. While the actual power of an advisory board can be downplayed, its influence must be a factor in the department's decision-making, otherwise why was it formed? In any event, such an arrangement should be improved.

In expanding the IDB pursuant to the proposal outlined in the Speech from the Throne, the minister should consider co-ordinating it more closely with DREE in order that DREE could use the expertise of the IDB both in an