

Supply

Until special treatment is given to the problem of regional disparity, nothing will change. We have had special programs, some of which have been successful and some of which have not. Rather than deal in an abstract way with this very practical subject, let me examine some of the problems that we have in the Atlantic area that are particularly important to Nova Scotia.

If the Province of Nova Scotia is to develop, it must be through the basic industries and resources of the region, using the capabilities of the people of Nova Scotia. That means the development of the basic industries of fishery, forestry, farming and energy. While we are not excluding ourselves from the manufacturing industry, our success has been in the basic resource industry. When I say energy, of course I include coal mining as well as the substantive offshore development which is anticipated for the future.

Let us look at the fisheries. We have a potentially viable, indeed lucrative, industry in the Atlantic fishery. But what has happened? For some mysterious reason, notwithstanding the world-wide shortage of protein food and the high price of red meat world-wide, apparently there are difficulties in marketing fish. Who is responsible for that? Is that the responsibility of a fisherman at Peggy's Cove or Indian Harbour in the federal constituency of Halifax West? No, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans must assume responsibility for that type of problem. It is only that Department, with the assistance of the Department of External Affairs through the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Regan) and other agencies, that must resolve that problem.

There is an even more vital problem at the moment in the fishing industry. First, there is the restructuring which has just been accomplished with yet unknown results. That creates turmoil. Furthermore, the Government of Canada has placed the matter of the jurisdiction over Georges Bank before the international court at The Hague. I have just attended a meeting of the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry. I asked the officials of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans what the alternative was if Canada loses its case before the international court? While no one wants that result, the point is that the Government of Canada is gambling in the international court with Nova Scotia's fisheries chips, if I can make that analogy. It put the Nova Scotia fishing resource on the table in the international court at The Hague and now it refuses to tell us what will happen if the case is lost. Any lawyer will say that when one goes to court one will either win or lose. That is an example of the problems we face. There is a viable industry in the midst of restructuring, and the Government is taking the risk of losing one of the most substantial resources bringing in \$100 million and more in fish catch. I think that is a subject that bears close scrutiny. If the Atlantic fishery is to be restructured and to become viable, it certainly will not happen without the resource of the fishery at Georges Bank.

Let me talk about another industry that needs federal help immediately, not a month or two from now. It is the Cape Breton coal mining industry. In 1967, the Parliament of

Canada established the Cape Breton Development Corporation. The Government took responsibility for the coal mining industry. The largest portion of that industrial activity on the Island of Cape Breton, in No. 26 colliery mining coal in a submarine mine, is closed as a result of a fire on April 5, 1984. It has not been reopened and 1,200 miners are out of work. Thousands of other workers who are dependent upon that mining operation for their employment are out of work.

The Minister of Regional and Industrial Expansion (Mr. Lumley) has failed to indicate clearly what action he proposes to take to have that mine reopened, which may be a physical impossibility at this point, or to have a substitute mining operation. It is curious that this matter is being debated in the provincial legislature of Nova Scotia by the provincial colleagues of the federal Liberals. They are asking the Government of Nova Scotia what it will do, but this is a federal responsibility. The Government of Canada took over the Cape Breton coal mines. I see that the Minister has just entered the House. I say that it belongs to the Government of Canada through its agent, the Cape Breton Development Corporation. It is a primary responsibility that is no different from de Havilland in the aircraft industry. It is the federal Government's responsibility to act now. There are substantial funds involved and substantial funding is necessarily required, but it is only a small portion of the money that has been spent on projects like de Havilland, Mirabel Airport and so on. Nova Scotia wants its share of the national wealth that is being spent in that way.

We will finance special development in the Atlantic region by stopping some of the wastage that now occurs. Let me give one small example. The Government of Canada has established a transportation subsidy of \$7.3 million for Atlantic Container Express to ship goods out of the Port of Montreal, to the disadvantage of the Port of Halifax. The sad part of this is that just within the year, the Government of Canada made a payment to the previous carrier, Newfoundland Steamships Company, of over \$5 million to buy out that subsidy.

I could go through the books of the Government of Canada and find millions and millions of wasted dollars which, if spent on industrial development in Atlantic Canada and the Province of Nova Scotia, would put every Nova Scotian on easy street.

Let me end with this thought and this hope for the future. It has been clearly established that the future of the Canadian economy, its viability and the creation of jobs depends on the expansion of international trade. That is no more true anywhere in Canada than it is in the Province of Nova Scotia, with the potential for energy and other exports and manufactured goods. I remind the House that \$1 billion in exports produces 17,000 jobs and that there has been a dramatic increase in international trade. If we participate in that international trade, we will produce the jobs we need. If we direct development in Atlantic Canada, particularly in the Province of Nova Scotia, we will produce the activities and the jobs we need to give Nova Scotians and all Atlantic Canadians a real place in the Confederation of Canada.