

Alleged Failure to Reduce Unemployment
members from that province would inform the Leader of the Opposition of this fact.

The Leader of the Opposition was critical of the government with regard to the rate of growth of our exports, and the volume of exports going to the United States compared with the volume going to other countries. I should like to point out that in my constituency alone within the last few weeks contracts have been signed for the export of more than \$1 billion worth of coal to Japan.

How is this correlated with rural development? It is obvious that in Canada there are certain growth areas. It is equally obvious that there are areas where serious economic problems exist. I submit that the concept of rural development must take account not only of current unemployment statistics but of economic potential. Rural development means looking at our areas of strength, not only at our areas of weakness. It may mean moving people into areas of economic strength from areas of economic depression.

If I may go back into history I should like to point out that this is not a new concept to Canadians. While civilization in this country was started by people who were willing to move, willing to travel over distances which were in those days unimaginable in order to start a new economy in another part of the world. The western regions of this country were built up by people who, similarly, were willing to move.

Despite the fact that we are living in a day and age when our population should be more mobile, it is in fact becoming more static. I submit that the government is on the right track when it brings in programs of retraining, programs of adult education, programs which will make our population more mobile. It is a provable fact that a person with less education is less likely to move to areas of greater economic opportunity.

I have touched on the solutions. One of them is the mobility of the labour force. Another is the retraining of the labour force, and a third is the education of our people to higher levels. Perhaps the last two requirements are prerequisite to the first. A fourth solution, and one which I believe this government is following, is the introduction of a system of regional development based on economic potential. It does not make sense to jump ill-prepared into programs which it is hoped will produce long term benefits. I suggest that programs undertaken without sufficient thought fail to produce benefits of this type.

[Mr. Sulatycky.]

Various programs have been undertaken in this country in an effort to bring economic benefits to particular regions. We have resorted to programs which were not sufficiently well thought out, ad hoc programs which failed to produce the long term benefits intended. Most of the programs that we have seen implemented to date in this country have been of minimal lasting benefit. I am pleased that the government is now giving a great deal of thought to methods to correct economic disparity.

● (5:10 p.m.)

The fifth solution to our economic problems, I submit, is to develop the proper attitude and mentality among the people of Canada. I deplore those who erode the confidence of Canadians, those who plant the seeds of doubt, who ask for excessive assistance and who paint a gloomy picture of the present and future of this country. I suggest that these people do a disservice to Canada. If that is what the Leader of the Opposition is attempting to do by moving his motion yesterday, then I congratulate the people of Canada for not voting for him in greater numbers at the polls last June 25.

I have faith in the economic future of this country. I have confidence that the government is contemplating at the present time a reasoned and logical program for regional and economical development, and I am pleased to say that I shall have to vote against the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. H. Russell MacEwan (Central Nova):
Mr. Speaker, as seconder of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) I have what I consider to be some pointed remarks to make on the motion which is to be tested by this house tonight.

I listened with interest to the speech of the Minister of Forestry and Rural Development (Mr. Marchand). His speeches are always interesting and his oratorical style always fiery. But what he said seemed to take me back to the days when I sat in this house with some of those who once sat across the way, including the former member for Bonavista-Twillingate, though I was not here when Mr. Howe was in the house. I thought that with a new government and with a just society the minister, especially in view of his labour background, would have had more to say about what could be done in regard to unemployment in this country. I thought he might have dealt with that part of the motion