

Adjournment Debate

Development Corporation my reaction was one of regret that this corporation had not in fact been established by the federal government. The objectives of the corporation are very important for an urbanizing society. In my own area, the region of metropolitan Toronto, the problem of urban transportation is a critical one and new solutions are required, new and innovative technology.

A few years ago this corporation was established by the province of Ontario and the hope was expressed at the outset that there would be federal interest and participation in it. I am enthusiastic about it for a number of reasons. I am enthusiastic because it addresses itself to one of the most serious urban problems. I am enthusiastic about it because its approach is to look for innovation. It very rarely happens that new solutions are found by old line companies. It seems that companies that are practised, experienced and committed in transportation need some kind of a push or a boost to provide new ideas. This corporation can provide them.

● (2210)

I am enthusiastic about it because it emphasizes development activity within the private sector. It is not the intention of this corporation to be in business to produce goods or to produce services. On the contrary, the idea is to be a contractor; to generate and stimulate within the private sector a new kind of industry—an industry badly needed for the future of Canada.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I am enthusiastic about the corporation because it is already succeeding. It has already promoted improved production; it has already promoted some successes and already established some technology. It has already made sales outside Ontario and outside Canada even, in the United States.

I use my question, Mr. Speaker, as a method of urging the government of Canada to participate in this corporation. The province of Alberta has already undertaken to become part of it, though the details of its commitment and the role it will play financially and otherwise have not been publicly announced. I hope that the federal government will play a role at least as important as that of Alberta and, hopefully, the other provinces of Canada.

Mr. Gaston Clermont (Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, the government is very much aware of the importance of creating a national based urban transportation development corporation to assist in solving the urban transportation problems. Indeed, on two occasions in the Speech from the Throne the determination of the government to establish such a corporation has been stated.

The first positive step in this direction was the proposal by the former minister of urban affairs (Mr. Basford), at a trilevel government meeting in Edmonton that such a corporation be established. The purpose of this corporation was to bring together the interests of the federal government and the provincial governments in resolving a number of the urban transportation problems that faced various municipalities.

Many of these problems have a common base and the purpose of this corporation would be to identify these areas of common interest, to identify the types of equip-

ment that might best meet these requirements, and to ensure that to the maximum extent possible this equipment would be produced in Canada. The government's purpose has been to join in the creation of a strong organization which had both federal and provincial participation which would assist industry to design, develop and produce transportation systems and equipment needed in Canadian urban areas.

The government has initiated discussions with all the provinces and there is general agreement that a corporation with these objectives would be beneficial and would contribute substantially to the solving of a number of urban transportation problems.

In considering the establishment of such a corporation it has been important to acknowledge the progress in urban transportation development that has been achieved by the province of Ontario and to utilize that experience as the nucleus for a nationally based organization. I am pleased to report that recent discussions with Ontario appear to have produced a basis for agreement. If such an agreement is reached the government plans, as a matter of priority, to place details for participation before the other provinces. I hope that the other provinces will find the proposed terms and conditions acceptable.

It is the intent of this corporation to provide leadership, and development and production of urban transportation systems that will enhance the social well being of many Canadians.

MANPOWER—DEVELOPMENT OF NEW COMMUNITY
EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY—INQUIRY AS TO GOVERNMENT
POLICY

Mr. Andy Hogan (Cape Breton-East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Manpower and Immigration (Mr. Andras) and is in connection with the announced three year program that was going to be signed with the provinces. I am concerned about what is going to happen in regard to the unemployment situation in the Atlantic region in the meantime. Surely LIP grants and unemployment insurance benefits are not the answer.

I should like to ask the parliamentary secretary, or whoever is speaking for the minister, when are we going to get from the federal government a co-ordinated plan for the development of the Atlantic region?

When the federal government set up the Atlantic Development Board, ministers promised a plan and talked about it in their speeches. We were told a plan would be forthcoming. When they set up the Area Development Agency they promised such a plan for the Atlantic region. Also, when they set up DREE they promised such a plan. Now we are in 1974 and we, in Atlantic Canada, are still the poorest of all regions in this country, with the possible exception of the Northwest Territories.

I am afraid that the government has become so used to setting up special functions and institutions which can be used in the Atlantic region that it has forgotten that national policies such as those of fiscal and monetary restraint of the 1969-1970 period can wipe out any good done by these institutions. I fear that we shall see much the same thing again in the November 1974 budget. Such a budget, a repeat of 1969-1970, would erase a great deal of