

The Budget—Mr. Breau

haps only to sell a sensational story. If this were true, it would not be so bad, but sometimes the motive can be much deeper and much worse.

I said that there were positive signs. I mentioned one of these, namely local leadership. I challenge anyone to compare the sense of leadership of the Acadians in northeastern New Brunswick with that of any other area of the country. The difference has its roots in our history and in sociological and economic conditions. Our condition is different and we should concentrate on other things, on problems which are different. This may not be as sensational or as far-reaching, but it is nevertheless very important.

The awareness has been there for a long time and we are trying to cope with the matter. But the negative publicity to which I referred is extremely prejudicial because it describes us as a society without future or direction. The effect is that the people, especially in southern New Brunswick and the remainder of Canada, are concerned about us, but that negative attitude does not help us at all.

There is yet another aspect which can still be more harmful. If others consider us as lost and without direction, it is not so bad after all, but we could become convinced, as our young people, that it is impossible to survive, that the problems are insuperable.

It is extremely difficult for community leaders to keep a positive and confident attitude before such a negative and distorted picture.

I hope that the awareness and negative manifestation will not give rise to an inhibition which the area will never be able to extricate.

I would like to conclude by urging the media to talk about our problems and our area so that they might understand, but I also urge them to give equal time to the efforts made by the people themselves in the area to solve these problems and to say that they are digging into them. The result will be a better understanding of the situation and confidence on the part of the Canadian public instead of unease towards solving our problems. And, even more important, the population will become confident and will stay positive.

Madam Speaker, repeatedly negative descriptions can only kill the morale of this region.

Before concluding, I would like to talk about a specific question because it is impossible in such a speech to outline all the subjects that deserve attention and that concern my riding. I must therefore choose and mention the most important one.

Fishing is not the only important element of our economy, but it is that which touches the greatest number of people. That is one of the reasons for our being proud of the nomination of my colleague from Westmorland-Kent to the position of Minister of State for Fisheries.

In the field of fisheries, in my opinion, we should as soon as possible, as the minister has already announced, implement a stabilization program for fishermen's income. The present unemployment insurance program is a far from adequate answer to the problem.

We must also ensure reasonable prices on the market. Through the use of different procedures, we must also

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make sure that the market, especially the American one, does not unduly exploit our resource so that the industry might pay the fishermen an adequate price and the factory workers, an adequate salary.

Madam Speaker, we must encourage increased production at home, especially for finished products. We must make a special effort to encourage the setting up of an integrated food industry. Institutional meals and food based on fish protein can be prepared just as well in our area as elsewhere. The government has only to provide for transportation costs caused by the fact that we are far from our markets and for other occasional costs which might be incurred from time to time.

But the most urgent problem that requires particular attention at this time is the lack of harbour facilities. Ships grow bigger all the time, require more and more wharfage and deep water, yet port facilities remain almost the same.

One must admit that the federal government already started to do something for deep-sea fishing in Shippegan, but the fishing industry still has serious and costly problems to face in Lamèque and in Caraquet.

As regards coastal fishing, something is being done also but there is still much more to do to improve many important fishing ports. In some cases, digging is the most urgent thing, but the wharves are far from being satisfactory.

I asked the Minister of State (Fisheries) (Mr. LeBlanc), my colleague from Westmorland-Kent, to watch the situation closely and if the estimates available to him are not adequate to solve the problem in a few years from now, I believe the government will have to make a special effort, either through the Department of Regional Economic Expansion or otherwise, as the development of the area should begin with upgrading the fishing field. As I said before, that is the part of our economy that affects the greatest number of people. Forests, agriculture and mines are also important in our area and the Department of Regional Economic Expansion will have to increase its efforts to improve the value added of those resources in the area. It must also keep on implementing the road improvement program and all the other services needed by the population to keep the economic development going.

● (1550)

[English]

Mr. Stanfield: Madam Speaker, I apologize for interrupting, but there is a rule that speeches be limited to 20 minutes and my understanding is that the hon. member has spoken beyond that limit.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): The time allotted to the hon. member expires at 3.57. He has one more minute.

Mr. Breau: I have finished, Madam Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): The Chair recognizes the hon. member for Edmonton West (Mr. Lambert).

Hon. Marcel Lambert (Edmonton West): Madam Speaker, I am glad we have been able to come to an agreement that speeches be limited to 20 minutes. Perhaps there was a slight breakdown in communications to start