

ATLANTIC REGION CANAL

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It is my intention to explore the issues of development and the other side of the development coin, underdevelopment. In the Atlantic region we have an unemployment rate from 10% to 20%. Pockets of unemployment exist in excess of 50% and a few communities exceed 90% at different times of the year.

Politicians tell us we are well off in comparison to the third world. The accompanying article clearly points to the truth of this statement. Should we be comparing our economic performance to that of the third world? Perhaps Ontario or New England is a more realistic comparison. The Atlantic Region does have similarities to the third world. Should we believe the Politicians who tell us we can not make it in the modern world?

Living on Less Than \$200 a Year

"To begin to understand economic development, we must have a picture of the problem with which it contends. We must conjure up in our mind's eye what underdevelopment means for the two billion human beings for whom it is not a statistic but a living experience of daily life. Unless we can see the Great Ascent from the vantage point of those who must make the climb, we cannot hope to understand the difficulties of the march.

It is not easy to make this mental jump. But let us attempt it by imagining how a typical Canadian family, living in a small suburban house on an average income, could be transformed into an equally typical family of the underdeveloped world.

We begin by invading the house of our imaginary family to strip it of its furniture. Everything goes: beds, chairs, television set, lamps. We will leave the family with a few old blankets, a kitchen table, a wooden chair. Along with the bureaus go the clothes. Each member of the family may keep in his "wardrobe" his oldest suit or dress, a shirt or blouse. We will permit a pair of shoes to the head of the family, but none for the wife or children.

We move into the kitchen. The appliances have already been taken out, so we turn to the cupboards and larder. The box of matches may stay, a small bag of flour, some sugar and salt. A few moldy potatoes, already in the garbage can, must be hastily rescued, for they will provide much of tonight's meal. We will leave a handful of onions and a dish of dried beans. All the rest we take away: the fresh vegetables, the canned goods, the crackers, the candy.

Now we have stripped the house: the bathroom has been dismantled, the running water shut off, the electric wires taken out. Next we take away the house. The family can move to the toolshed. It is crowded, but much better than the situation in Hong Kong where, a United Nations report tells us, "It is not uncommon for a family of four or more to live in a bedspace, that is on a bunk bed and the space it occupies -- sometimes in two or three tiers -- their only privacy provided by curtains."

Crosbie tells Atlantic Canadians "You're better

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