

attitude of the Ministers responsible for this program. They are only willing to go so far as to provide money or support for business enterprises in the Atlantic region. I think that is an important thing that has to be done. But it cannot be done in the way in which the Government is undertaking it without doing little to resolve the problem, and in fact it may well be exacerbating it.

The Government refuses to accept an amendment which would guarantee that there would be equity between the provinces in terms of access and use of this agency. To a certain degree at least this would have ensured that the money and the programs of ACOA would not be concentrated in those areas which already have economic development. Unfortunately, there is no mechanism within the ACOA program and within the legislation to ensure that those areas, cities, and towns that are already doing well will not take up the lion's share of this regional development funding. Of course, the most important thing is that this agency, which has other mandates in terms of advocacy for the Atlantic region, is not given sufficient funds to undertake this gigantic task.

The allocation of an additional \$200 million, which is 15 per cent of 1 per cent of the national budget, is a very minuscule amount when one looks at the total picture. It is a very minuscule amount to spend on what is regarded as the most serious economic problem facing the country.

I look forward to the day when Members of Parliament from across Canada, not only Members from the Atlantic region or those of us from my province, can join together and insist on putting in place a program that will tackle and genuinely do what has to be done in order to ensure that Atlantic Canada receives its fair share of economic and regional development, and that opportunities in Atlantic Canada and those parts of Atlantic Canada that are doing badly exist and are created by the Government.

There have to be structural changes that will not come unfortunately from the vision of Canada held by this Government. Its vision of Canada is made up of people acting for private motives and making a profit. The Government is extending our borders in that field to include the United States of America in the trade agreement. It is preventing us in Atlantic Canada from using our natural resources such as oil and electricity to give favourable treatment to businesses and opportunities in the Atlantic region. That is a structural change that would be required in order to assist Atlantic Canadians in developing their economy. The Government does not see the wisdom of that. In fact, it is throwing it to the wind and stating that it will only give money to small enterprises and hoping against hope that this will do something to alleviate regional disparity. I am afraid that that will not do so. I am sorry it will not do so.

I have to support this legislation because it does provide a first step, but I am sorry that the Government does not have the will to reduce and eliminate regional disparities.

Government Organization Act, Atlantic Canada, 1987

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 66, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Burnaby (Mr. Robinson)—Correctional Services—Funding of agency to assist ex-prisoners in Nova Scotia; the Hon. Member for Cochrane—Superior (Mr. Penner)—Finance—Northern tax allowances—Geographical delineation of affected communities/Request that regulations be amended; and the Hon. Member for Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson)—Northern Development—Negotiation of energy accord with Northwest Territories.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION ACT, ATLANTIC CANADA, 1987

MEASURE TO ENACT

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mr. Mulroney that Bill C-103, an Act to increase opportunity for economic development in Atlantic Canada, to establish the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation and to make consequential and related amendments to other Acts, be read the third time and passed.

Mr. Dave Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Mr. Speaker, I wish to join in the debate on a public policy issue which has concerned me for quite some time.

Many Members of Parliament who have been elected to this Chamber and who are presently in this Chamber have been hoping and working toward the elimination of regional disparities in this country. Whether one resides in Newfoundland or Cape Breton, or in parts of western Canada, Quebec, or Ontario, it is clear that the issue of regional disparities is an important and all-encompassing issue.

When Governments formulate public policy to address serious situations in the country, in my view it is their role, after broad consultation, to come forward with meaningful and concrete programs within a reasonable period of time.

Dr. Donald Savoie is an economist by profession and for quite some time has been studying regional disparities within Atlantic Canada. He has prepared a report, and in that document he has highlighted the fact that agencies or Departments, private as well as public, do not and will not be the panacea for resolving regional inequalities in the country.

Some of us can look back to the days when we passed and amended the Canadian Constitution. A provision of the