

good program the principles of which are correct we should not have constructive comments from hon. gentlemen opposite, but it is impossible to have a constructive debate if hon. gentlemen opposite refuse to believe that any such programs exist. The government has done something in these fields, and if hon. gentlemen opposite want to be helpful I think they should first address themselves to learning something about the initiatives of the federal government. I am quite sure that in many of these programs there is room for improvement and for constructive criticism. I suggest that would make a much more realistic contribution than the absurd statements made by the hon. member for Brandon-Souris (Mr. Dinsdale) who completely dismissed the fact that there were any developments or initiatives.

Mr. Dinsdale: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the hon. gentleman referred to my remarks as absurd. That is merely his opinion. He is a master of absurdities.

Mr. Cashin: I must suggest to the hon. member that I have received quite a good course in absurdities from hon. members opposite during the course of this debate and therefore I am quite able to judge them.

There is another area in which the federal government has taken an initiative so far as resources are concerned. I refer to the programs of the department of manpower, the specific purpose of which is to upgrade people's skills and give them opportunities to get better jobs. Surely this is one of the most significant initiatives taken by any government anywhere in the world to develop human resources. In dealing with a program of this magnitude there is obviously room for constructive criticism and for suggestions. Nevertheless, during the course of the speeches made by hon. members opposite in support of the amendment introduced by the former minister of agriculture never once did they address themselves to the existing programs and policies of this government which have received widespread support throughout the country and which are leading initiatives in relation to programs undertaken by governments in other countries. Not once did hon. members opposite offer any constructive criticism or helpful advice on how these federal initiatives could be improved.

Recently I had the opportunity to visit the province of Prince Edward Island and to obtain some first hand information on what the department of manpower is doing in that province to offer new skills and new job

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opportunities to people in rural areas. I have seen the same program in operation in Newfoundland, and I am sure the same is true in other parts of Canada. There is also the manpower mobility program which is aimed at making it easier for Canadian citizens to move to areas where jobs can be obtained.

I should also like to make some reference to the policies of the Department of Fisheries. Hon. members opposite have said that the government has no fisheries policy. I point out that in 1964, at the calling of the present Minister of Fisheries (Mr. Robichaud), a national conference on fisheries was convened which laid the groundwork for considerable development in that field in the three years since then. In fact these have been the three most dynamic years in the growth of fisheries in Canada. We have had, for example, a series of conferences sponsored by the federal Department of Fisheries which have led to practical results.

One of the most helpful conferences which the Department of Fisheries held as part of the fisheries policy enunciated at the federal-provincial conference in 1964 was the conference on herring in the Atlantic provinces which has led to a tremendous increase in the development and exploitation of that resource in the four Atlantic provinces.

Mr. Nasserden: Particularly the red herring.

Mr. Cashin: The hon. gentleman opposite has brought in a red herring. Of course that is nothing new from my hon. friend from Saskatchewan. It is unfortunate he did not participate in that conference as I am sure he would have brought more brilliance to it than did some of his colleagues, and it is a great pity that some of his best remarks are made from his seat. May I call it six o'clock, Mr. Speaker?

At six o'clock the house took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The house resumed at 8 p.m.

Mr. Cashin: Mr. Speaker, before the dinner adjournment I had mentioned a number of very significant initiatives which the present administration had taken in the field of resource development. I made particular reference to the initiatives taken by the Department of Forestry and Rural Development, placing emphasis on the fund for rural economic development and the steps that have