

those particular suggestions to his colleagues when they had the opportunity to act?

● (1210)

Mr. Tobin: All the time.

Mr. McInnes: I can only conclude that that was not the case because the evidence indicates that the Hon. Member and his colleagues indeed failed Atlantic Canada. Albeit there were two temporary interruptions, we are left with the result of 23 years of mismanagement, neglect and abdication of responsibility by those who had the opportunity to do something.

The way our friends used to deal with the problems in Atlantic Canada was pretty much the way they dealt with problems in the rest of Canada. That is what the people of Canada rejected in 1984. The people said that they had had enough.

In the olden days, when we were nearing election time our friends would say that they would initiate programs to help Canadians and Atlantic Canadians. What did they do? They threw some money here, they threw some money there, they painted pretty pictures and they built some buildings. However, what did they do for the long-term viability of Atlantic Canada? Nothing, Mr. Speaker. The situation today is that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are 80 per cent dependent on Government revenues. Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland are 90 per cent dependent on government revenues. For 23 years, there was an erosion of the creativity, willingness, capital and dedication required to make Atlantic Canada a full partner in Confederation. This was not always so.

At the time of Confederation, as the Minister of State for Forestry will know, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia were two of the wealthiest provinces in Canada. Nova Scotia was the fourth largest trading partner in all of the world. What has happened since that time? There has been an abdication of responsibility on the part of the Government. There has been an erosion in the climate necessary to encourage private capital in Atlantic Canada, private capital that would create jobs and make manufacturing industries available in order to sustain long-term growth.

In 1984, the new Government decided that the *ad hoc* policies of our friends had obviously not done the job. In 1983-84, the federal Government awarded 29 federal grants to the Province of Nova Scotia. I would like to tell the House of the way those grants were administered in Nova Scotia. Of those 29 grants, 23 were given to the Cape Breton riding represented by the then Deputy Prime Minister. Every single one of those 23 grants went to the particular town in which he resided.

What was the reaction of the people of Canada to that? They said: "Thank you very much, we appreciated your effort, but you have done nothing for us. What have we got to show for it? What manufacturing industries do we have which will produce jobs for the long term? What infrastructure have you created which will minimize the everlasting, long-term, predicted unemployment rate to which we have been subjected?"

Supply

The people asked where the grants were for Yarmouth, Bridgewater, Guysborough and Amherst. There were none. They all went to the riding of the then Deputy Prime Minister, obviously to no avail.

Mr. Tobin: That's untrue.

Mr. McInnes: I forgot. The riding of my friend, the Hon. Member for Cape Breton East Richmond, also received two of the 29 grants, and the other four were given to other parts of the province.

My friend is berating this Government because in 14 months it has not waved the magic wand and created 100 per cent employment. That is not our objective. The Government could create many more jobs overnight by throwing away money for three-week, six-week and 12-week projects as did the former Government. However, at the end of those periods of time to which those particular programs were directed, the people would be back on the dole. That is the reason for the captivity to subsidies which forms part of Atlantic Canada.

I would emphasize that Atlantic Canada is absolutely dependent on Government revenues. Because of that, the people of Canada said: "No more, you have to try something else". Indeed, that is what this Government has undertaken. The objective statistics are there to show that the proof is in the pudding.

Interest rates are down 3 per cent. Investment intentions are up by 22 per cent and in Atlantic Canada they are up by 14 per cent. The unemployment rate is down by 1 per cent and the employment rate is up by 3 per cent. When there are 53 per cent more housing starts this year than last, when retail purchases are up by 27 per cent and when small businesses in Nova Scotia indicate that they are going to make 24 per cent more capital expenditures than they did last year and create 42 per cent more jobs in the next year, that is an indication that the people have adopted the policies of the Government, policies on which they can rely because they know that they will not be changed in the middle of the game. The people recognize that we are creating a climate of confidence in order to induce investors, not only from the Atlantic provinces but from all over, to invest in Canada.

We in the Atlantic provinces recognize that some of our very best employers and indeed some of our finest corporate citizens are from other lands. In Nova Scotia, Michelin is the largest employer. Nova Scotia Forest Industries and Bowater Mersey are good corporate citizens in Nova Scotia. In New Brunswick, there is St. Anne-Nackawic, the pulp mill, and in Prince Edward Island there is Usen Fisheries Ltd. These are just a few examples of the employment records of some of our fine corporate citizens. There have been too few citizens of that kind from foreign lands investing in Canada, and more particularly in Atlantic Canada, in the past number of years. This has been because of the National Energy Program and the Foreign Investment Review Agency.

We in Atlantic Canada welcome investors from other lands. Because we have done away with the FIRA and NEP legislation, which was inimical to the wellbeing of our area, we can