

The Address—Mr. Coates

not well at Expo. Indeed, when I put questions on the order paper last year and found the then Minister of Trade and Commerce, now Minister of Finance (Mr. Sharp), answering them a day or two after I had asked them, I anticipated he was less than anxious to have a formal investigation at that time because of some of the things that were happening. I hope the present Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Winters) will indicate to the Canadian taxpayer that he is as much a guardian of their tax dollars as is any other member of parliament, and will see that this committee is set up and set up properly.

Another matter on which I should like to comment is one which was discussed during the question period, the area incentive program established by the Department of Industry. I was not pleased by the answer the minister gave when he informed the Leader of the Opposition that Halifax, Saint John, Fredericton and Dartmouth would not be included in this program, as they would have been under the policy of the Progressive Conservative party. Indeed, the concept being followed by the Minister of Industry is brand new; certainly not the concept of any economist in this nation worth his salt. How can the minister explain the high unemployment figures in the Atlantic area as compared with the rest of Canada and expect anything to be done about it through his policy if he will not allow the growth areas to increase and send out benefits to the whole region?

Certainly there have to be new concepts produced for the Atlantic area if we are to overcome the high unemployment rate which exists there at the present time, a rate three times as high as that for the rest of Canada. Beyond doubt if we are to get anything done in this regard through the minister's proposals the plan will have to include the growth areas of Halifax, Dartmouth, Saint John and Fredericton, as APEC and every economic organization in the Atlantic area have done. There is no other way in which this program could succeed.

I should like to talk about another aspect of this area development program, this designated area program as the minister calls it. The minister kindly consented to visit my home town one week prior to the election, and on that occasion he told my constituents that four new industries would be coming there. All this was through the designated area program which this department is bring-

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ing into effect, a program which would bring great benefits to Cumberland county and especially to Amherst. He gave the impression that almost within the next week Amherst would have so much employment that it could be excluded from the designated area program altogether.

When the minister was questioned closely about these new industries he said "Oh, well, it is top secret". He could not disclose very much about them, but they were coming. They would provide employment for some 165 men; there was going to be \$600,000 or \$700,000 of capital investment in the area. Wonderful.

So, after the election I thought it proper to write and ask the Minister of Industry to give me some more information about these four new industries, to tell me what they were. My people were most anxious to know. They had not heard anything about them since the day the minister was there. Well, the minister wrote and told me about these new industries. He told me there were four, and he named them. The first two were Amherst Woodworking Maritime Limited and Maritime Pants and Jackets. These are two industries that have been in Amherst for a long time, the latter probably for 25 years, though they had been taken over by another firm. Amherst Woodworking had come in on its own, asking no one for assistance, and had been there for two years before the minister dropped into town.

The third industry, Union Carbide Canada Limited, announced it was going to Amherst a year before the Minister of Industry paid us his visit. The fourth was most significant, a \$120,000 industry. Well, we are happy to have a \$120,000 industry in Amherst. We will take them any size. But these were the four great new industries which would do so much to create employment in Cumberland county.

What does it all amount to? This is the minister being somewhat less than truthful and honest with the people of Cumberland county when he came in a week before election day. And this is how the Amherst newspaper, the *Daily News*, treated Mr. Drury's letter. Here is the headline: "Liberal Election Promise is 'Joke'?"

Yes, it is a joke. It is the same kind of joke the party opposite has pulled off or tried to pull off in every constituency in Nova Scotia. But do you know something? The real joke in Nova Scotia was on November 8, when all they had left was the hon. member for Inverness-Richmond. Oh, yes; we had the former Minister of Agriculture down a few