

Mr. Crosby: Mr. Speaker, I want to make a brief comment, and I know the Hon. Member will appreciate this as well. I think both he and I realize and recognize the subject we are talking about, but it occurred to me that others might not understand that in the undeveloped areas of the Province of Nova Scotia—and I gather from the Member that the same situation exists in Newfoundland—you cannot always have access to ground water through the drilling of a well, because that water is contaminated. In the Waverley area of Halifax West and in others the waters are contaminated, so you simply cannot gain access to pure water through the use of a well, which is the normal method. As my colleague has pointed out, in some cases in rural areas there is no municipal support for that kind of elaborate system which would normally be an urban type of development.

Perhaps the Hon. Member will agree with my comment that this is in a sense a rural problem. But if you do not solve it, the area will not only remain rural, it will remain totally undeveloped where otherwise it could be a viable area for development if that problem were solved.

Mr. J. M. Forrestall (Dartmouth-Halifax East): Mr. Speaker, I wanted to pick up from the point where my colleague left off in his remarks earlier this afternoon on the motion in front of us when he referred to the role of international trade in Atlantic Canada to help us restore that level of activity which would tend to rid us of the disparity between us and the rest of Canada. It seems to me that the statistics with respect to international trade, their impact upon job creation, are sufficiently well known to government, to our officials and to our institutions. Some simple statistics, for example, show that for every billion dollars of new trade that we can develop in the export context we can create 16,000 or 17,000 jobs on average. With certain products the figure is much higher, or course, and with other products, much lower. I think we are beginning to reach up toward the \$100 billion mark in export trade. Mr. Speaker, \$1 billion or \$2 billion of that export trade going out of Atlantic Canada would create 25,000 or 30,000 new long-term jobs and would, as my colleague says, rid us of most of our unemployment in Nova Scotia alone. It seems to me that that is an area to which the Government should perhaps start to turn its attention.

● (1740)

I have watched the evolutionary process of regional and economic expansion. I have watched successive governments struggle, with good intentions, with this problem of disparity between the regions. I have watched them move from rural programs to rural regional programs, to rural and agricultural programs, to rural and industrial programs, into simply regional development and now into regional industrial development. We still have not got a handle on it. I suppose that historians may say that 10 or 12 ad hoc programs were considered, put into place and tried. However, they were all found wanting. I do not condemn, out of hand, ad hockery, trial and error, because it is a difficult problem in the sense that we recognize that each step of the way the measures we have put in place

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have not in fact worked. The gap is still there and is widening. I suppose that what I am going to suggest is yet another piece of ad hockery, if you will. Nevertheless, I think it is something to which we should seriously direct our attention over the next 10 or 15 years.

A lot of the development money which comes into our region is lost. Our attempts to develop an industrial base, a secondary manufacturing base, the fishery, the forestry and agriculture, have been failures, to one degree or another. When we put a new water system into metropolitan Halifax, we spend \$40 million or \$45 million on it. We do not make the pipe in Atlantic Canada. We do not make the valves, gaskets or pumps. We do not make the electrical wiring which goes into the building which houses the pump that turns the motor. The slippage is extra-ordinarily high. On Pockwock alone, about 15 years ago, the slippage was very close to 90 per cent. While it seemed as though we were getting an awful lot of help, in fact all we got was some money to pay for labour content, to buy some bricks and perhaps a bit of concrete. However, we have no legacy from that, other than the infrastructure itself. We needed it and I am not condemning that.

We now know that of the hundreds of millions of dollars being spent offshore, only 20 per cent may stay. The other 80 per cent goes somewhere else. It does not stay in Atlantic Canada. There is no legacy of permanent employment. Those are just two examples. What else can we do? We have tried help in the agricultural sector. We have tried it in industry and manufacturing. It does not work. We will have to put money back into Devco one way or another to put those men back to work.

I am not talking about the ongoing things which we must do. I will talk about what we should be doing. The Minister responsible for manpower wants to put \$11 billion into retraining. That is great. That will go a long way to help. Let us find out what it is that Canada can sell. Let us start so that 10 years from now the research will have been completed and we will know what we can market abroad. Atlantic Canada is in a position to sell offshore. We do not have the technology. We do not even know what the markets are.

I reject those who ask how they can research and develop a product and make it marketable if we do not know what we want to sell. We have not started. Let us start to identify our goals. We could take some of the money which we have been putting into GDAs and into the sub-agreements under them. The Minister spoke today about how they rise and fall because they are definitive programs which have a beginning, a peak and a decline. They start and they end. Let us use the concept of having a beginning, a peak and an end with respect to investment in market and product identification and the technology which would be required to put the products that are identified into the markets which are identified. Let us discover whether in Atlantic Canada we can develop an additional \$2 billion in export sales. We are on the water. Why not take advantage of the sea? I am not talking about money to develop products for consumption in an already saturated central market or a midwestern or northeastern U.S. market. I am