

Private Members' Business

to them, as my friend from Bonavista—Trinity—Conception asks? What are they supposed to do?

We all know there has been an investment of almost \$600 million to deal with fisheries adjustment in Atlantic Canada. It has taken on a number of combinations and permutations. One of the initiatives that is underway now that I think is particularly important and would be endorsed by all of the members of this House is the task force on incomes and adjustment that is being headed by Richard Cashin, the President of the Newfoundland Fishermen's Food and Allied Workers Union in St. John's. Forty-five million dollars have been set aside for pilot projects in this area.

The approach here is to take this on in two phases. The first phase would be an interim assessment of the resource, the industry and those employed in it. The second phase would be to prepare for the minister and the government a set of recommendations on an adjustment strategy and recommend communities in the region that can and will be helped.

There have been a whole series of short-term measures and emergency responses to particular problems like the one that my friend has spoken about. There have been programs for catch failure. There have been programs designed to respond to ice conditions. There have been very specific programs put in place to provide for training for those people who have been laid off from fish plants.

In my own constituency of St. John's East in the community of Belle Island we have been able to develop a heavy equipment program. That has come from the commitment of the faculty of the community college there and of the community.

The great advantage is that we have been able to solve two or three problems at once. Most of the people who have gone through that program have been plant workers who had been laid off in closed fish plants.

We get the benefit of the heavy equipment program on Belle Isle, the community with a 70 per cent unemployment rate, a community that was abandoned in 1965. Now we are beginning to see some real initiatives there. At the same time, we are training plant workers who have been laid off.

It is the community-based approach that has evolved from the old IAS strategy supported through Community Futures, that has developed as we have committees in place to bring together, not only the training needs and employment opportunities, but the economic diversification opportunities.

For the last three years we have seen and I am directly familiar with emergency response programs. For instance, in the community of Cupids we were finally able to open up a channel and put some cribbing into a small boat basin, a pond as we call it. We have that facility but more important, last year we had a number of people who were able to get employment through that program.

We have seen it in other communities. I use it only as an example of good work and creative responses.

There are people who do not always get taken up. There are safety nets which we hope will deal with these. So many have been taken care of. In times of hardship and difficulty the likes of which many of us have never seen before and have only heard about, the concern that my friend expresses on behalf of his constituents is one that all of us feel.

Frankly, be they fishermen or be they farmers or people laid off in manufacturing industries, in communities that depend on the manufacturing sector, the compassion that he talks about and that he displays is one that many of us have and share. That is why we have evolved the programs that we have. That is why so many of these things have been put into place. That is why the government continues to respond in many different ways to make sure that we have a fishery in the future that can support our communities and our individuals.

Mr. Cid Samson (Timmins—Chapleau): Mr. Speaker, do I have 10 minutes or are we only going until six o'clock?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): We just go until six o'clock on Standing Orders. I regret it is only after supply motion that we could take the whole hour.

Mr. Cadieux: Mr. Speaker, an agreement could not be reached under the provisions of Standing Order 78(1) or 78(2) with respect to an allocation of time for the committee stage of Bill C-81, an act to provide for referendums on the Constitution of Canada.