

Adjournment Debate

fisheries, transportation, and the forest industries, three of the most important dynamics for economic development in the whole province of New Brunswick. I would plead with the minister to approve these agreements so that they have the greatest economic impact they can possibly have, and that they have it now. If the minister has to come to Treasury Board and eventually come before this House with supplementary estimates, he will have my wholehearted support.

In order for us to be successful in attacking the problem of regional disparity we have to ensure that every department and agency of government will focus on the problem. It may take the involvement of the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) to bring that focus about. I would therefore ask the Prime Minister to vest in his minister the power to bring about that vital and very important clout so that we can make progress in this regard.

In the province of New Brunswick some of the departments of government that could have this development dimension and have it initiated now, should be mentioned. The Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce could initiate an expansion of the Saint John Shipbuilding and Drydock Company Limited. The Department of Public Works could get on with dredging the Miramichi River. The Minister of the Environment (Mr. Roberts) who also has charge of science and technology, could provide facilities and grants for the forestry complex at the University of New Brunswick. The Department of National Defence could play a development role by moving the \$49 million facility for base Gagetown from 1985 to 1981 and thus create jobs today. The National Harbours Board could expedite the most valuable Dalhousie-Belldune study and the natural products potash terminal in Saint John. The Department of Transport could lengthen the runway at St. Leonard Airport by 2,000 feet. The Department of the Solicitor General could also play a role by starting building on the minimum security prison at Renous. And the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Mr. Speaker, has untold opportunity in capital intensive projects now under way in the maritime provinces to reduce the cost of electric energy.

The Prime Minister very wisely said early in the session that he would like to see bread for everyone before cake for some. I want to serve notice on the Prime Minister and the minister responsible for regional economic expansion that we in New Brunswick are prepared to get bread, but we are sick and tired of crumbs.

● (2215)

Mr. Maurice Harquail (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Regional Economic Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I want to express my gratitude to the hon. member for York-Sunbury (Mr. Howie) for bringing this matter to the attention of the House this evening. Certainly he supports what the minister responsible for DREE has been saying, as quoted not long ago in *The Telegraph-Journal*, Saint John, New Brunswick. He said, "We can't do it alone." He has put forward the concept that we will have to have a broader base notwithstanding the fact that we have just passed the tenth anniversary of the structuring and the setting up of the Department of Regional

Economic Expansion. However, if one looks at a map of Canada, practically all regions now have been designated. Obviously there will have to be a reshaping and rethinking of the whole question of designated areas to correct the question of disparity.

The hon. member has touched on many important points this evening. I think, though, that he will also have to remember that his own government last year signed no subsidiary agreements with the province of New Brunswick during the nine months it was in office. In the last three months we have attempted to revive DREE activities in the province of New Brunswick. Indeed, negotiations are under way now which could result in a commitment of about \$90 million by the federal government over the next five years. We have presently under consideration several proposed sub-agreements with New Brunswick relating to commercial development, that is, development of the market square in Saint John, the modernization of the pulp and paper industry, forestry development and industrial development.

If the negotiations arrive at a successful conclusion with the New Brunswick government, DREE's contribution under the Canada New Brunswick General Development Agreement will reach approximately \$435 million. When one looks at the history of it, the federal government has committed \$435 million in New Brunswick between 1974 and 1979. I think that is very significant and important. This was carried out through the signing of 17 agreements.

These funds have been allotted to the resources sector, to infrastructures, including the highway system, development agreements for underdeveloped areas and to other projects of specific interest and impact. However, as has been pointed out, the Department of Regional Economic Expansion continues to co-operate with the province of New Brunswick.

It is interesting to work on the standing committee of DREE because there is agreement that there be non-partisan debate and that we try to get along to help progress, to succeed, and to have the best results for the dollar spent between the federal and the various provincial governments, specifically in the area of Atlantic Canada. We agree that there must be co-operation. If we are going to accomplish all these things, we will have to have restructuring and co-operation of all the other departments, and we will have to have more money to do it.

As has been stated by a noted reporter, Mr. Surette, in Halifax recently:

DREE, I believe, deserves more encouragement at this point.

With that kind of co-operation we might be able to meet some of your needs.

HEALTH AND WELFARE—HEALTH HAZARDS IN CERTAIN CHEMICALS AND PESTICIDES—REVIEW OF DRUGS, PESTICIDES, FOOD ADDITIVES—REQUEST FOR PROGRESS REPORT

Mr. Simon de Jong (Regina East): Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening as a result of the answer I received from the Minister of National Health and Welfare (Miss Bégin) concerning the