

Government Orders

another example of the failure of this government in its trade and economic policies.

As the debate continues on this legislation, my colleague, the hon. member for Moose Jaw—Lake Centre, will bring this issue to Parliament to the attention of all Canadians. He will be working hard, as will all members of this caucus, to ensure that the issues are brought forward, that we do our best to bring some equality to this country and help to those regions that need it. It helps to develop our resources and our industries.

Certainly our caucus will keep up the fight on Bill C-26. We will see whatever the Liberals do on this. We are not sure, given whatever kind of strategy they have right now on the GST and Bill C-52 but we are trying to get a reading of it. I hope they will join with us in fighting this legislation.

Mr. Harvard: I find the remarks of the hon. member from British Columbia very interesting. He seems to be very concerned about what the Liberals might do. The Liberals have been fighting for this country a lot longer than the New Democrats. When it comes to cutting regional programs in Atlantic Canada, central Canada, western Canada you can be sure that the Liberal Party will be there. We do not have to be concerned about the NDP. I can assure the hon. member for British Columbia that he does not have to go through any sleepless nights. The Liberal party will be here standing up for the regions of the country.

Despite the fact that the member has made some irresponsible remarks, particularly with respect to the Official Opposition, I do have a question for him and I hope that he has an answer.

He has been expressing concern about the effects of the at and east subsidy elimination. I would like to know from him—because the NDP is always concerned about workers and jobs—what effect this might have on jobs in Atlantic Canada, in western Canada and in central Canada?

Mr. Gardiner: Madam Speaker, I have enjoyed the debate of the last couple of days because the Liberals to our right are very testy these days. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to some of the questions that they have.

Mr. Gauthier: We are 51 in the polls. You are only 21. Who is testy?

Mr. Gardiner: Well, let me respond in detail. I think that proves my point about who is being testy and who is not.

I enjoy sitting beside the member from Winnipeg from time to time on our flights to the west. He talked about regional programs. Well, let me tell you, Madam Speaker, about one regional program and where the Liberals do or do not stand, depending on the time of day. For example, forestry. In the 1984 election campaign, the Liberals then Leader, the one who just resigned, came to the minister's and my home town in northern British Columbia and said that he was absolutely against a full-fledged department of forestry. Then he tried to make a landing during the last campaign and of course he was fog-bound like the Liberal Party usually is.

If we are going to talk about regional programs, let us talk about something critical. Let us talk about education and post-secondary education. Which government was it that through its six and five program lifted the requirement that spending money on education, post-secondary education and health care had to be spent on that matter in the provinces which received those funds? Ultimately, it is the Liberals who are responsible for letting Socreds pave the Coquihalla Highway with money that should have been spent on education and health care in B.C.

The concerns that we have with Bill C-26 are the obvious loss of jobs that have been outlined by our critic. He has now listed the number of jobs in Atlantic Canada that will be lost. Through a coherent transportation policy adopted by New Democrats, we can ensure that jobs in Atlantic Canada are preserved and that we have a rational shipping policy that equals all of the concerns across the country.

Mr. Milliken: I am provoked by the hon. member's comments to participate in this debate and make a comment to him.

I am delighted to see the New Democratic Party, which has no representation whatsoever in Atlantic Canada, taking this new found interest in the eastern part of our country. I think that it is fair to say that the members in the New Democratic Party represent a western rump. It is a well-known fact that their inability to get seats in Atlantic Canada is reflected in the fact that they now stand here trumpeting day after day their concerns for the problems that are besetting that region of the country, thanks to the hon. members opposite who have botched their attempts to salvage what they can from the