

Naturally, I take some personal satisfaction in having won this fight. I started the Opposition in Parliament, to the NEP, in 1980, and, six tough years later, helped bring an end to the PGRT. I look forward to working with the industry and provinces toward further reform.

The dismantling of the NEP is but one example of how this government has brought Western Canadian priorities to the very heart of the national agenda. I have mentioned FIRA, CANAGREX, Privatization, the NEP, and progress on the deficit. Let me review other initiatives taken since September 1984, or currently in the works.

Freedom to move legislation, which can have such a dramatic and positive effect on our trading competitiveness, will be re-introduced in this Parliament. One billion dollars has been set aside for payments to farmers, in addition to the Farm Fuel Tax Relief, a record payment under the Western Grain Stabilization Act, and drought assistance for grain and livestock producers. We have worked hard to secure continued grain sales to the Soviet Union. 50 million dollars has been committed, working in cooperation with the provincial contributions, to strengthen the Yellowhead Highway as a major transportation system. The Via Rail System has been strengthened.

Those are not small accomplishments. They represent a fundamental change in the direction of Canadian national policy, a change that is particularly important here, because Alberta suffered so severely from the policies that have been put aside.

The difficult irony, for Albertans, is that, just as we began to pursue national policies which encourage Alberta to grow, new problems arose in our basic industries - energy, agriculture, lumber. None of these problems is simple. Some of them require prompt action by Canada's governments - and some of them require response by individuals, business, labour and other leaders.

During the late 1970's, I spoke with pride of this part of the country as "the building end" of this nation. Historically, that has been a fair and honest description of Western Canada.

Albertans have contributed a tremendous amount to the rest of Canada in many ways, not just through foregone