

[Translation]

### TRANSPORT

**Mr. Jean-Pierre Blackburn (Jonquière):** Madam Speaker, I have good news today for the Canadian people. Hon. Benoît Bouchard has just been appointed to the senior Department of Industry, Science and Technology. His skills and ability will become an asset for regional development at a time when the disparities between the regions need to be alleviated. But if this appointment is good news for many, the fact remains that the people of the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area have not benefited fully from his mandate as Minister of Transport.

There was so much foot-dragging on the part of the Quebec Government that a stretch hardly three-kilometre long of the Alma-La Baie Highway has been completed over the past six years. But I give people fair warning that the Conservative representatives of the region will not give up so easily. There are \$11 million to be saved by March 31, 1991, and I am willing to constantly pester the Quebec Government to make sure that our region does not lose this money.

\* \* \*

[English]

### FORESTRY

**Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley):** Madam Speaker, this government has failed completely to bring forward its environmental program. Now it has given up on federal-provincial forest agreements as the way to ensure that our forests are replanted.

Agreements with Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have not been signed since they expired a year ago. In B.C.'s case, this government has sold out *Polar 8*, our softwood lumber and our fish. Now it has sold out our forest community by delaying the signing of a new forest agreement in B.C.

At the same time as the department is being proclaimed, its budget is being slashed and agreements remain unfunded.

The time has come to put an end to the Tory shell game. The minister should get on with it and sign new agreements now.

S. O. 31

### THE BUDGET

**Mr. Felix Holtmann (Portage—Interlake):** Madam Speaker, our government has a blueprint for economic recovery that must be followed despite the outrageous screams of opposition members who in five years and two elections have offered no solutions, no goals, no visions, no direction, and no leadership to the Canadian public.

• (1110)

Our finance minister stated, "this government will continue to do not what is easy or popular for itself, but what is right for the country".

The opposition is prepared to buy its popularity with taxpayers' dollars, as was the legacy of 22 years of Liberal-New Democratic Party governments of the past. What a shameful demonstration of the legacy of that former administration.

\* \* \*

### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**Mr. John Manley (Ottawa South):** Madam Speaker, once again in this week's budget the government has revealed its true colours when it comes to science and technology. Thirty-nine million dollars is cut from planned science programs at a time when Canada desperately needs to be increasing science-based innovation to assure our economic strength in the future.

Instead of wasting millions of dollars on propaganda, the implementation of the GST, and the moving of existing facilities and jobs in science out of the national capital, the government should be increasing its commitment to the development of environmental technologies, alternative energy sources and increased base budgets for the research granting councils.

Canada's relatively high growth in relation to other OECD countries belies our economic weakness. The more important measure of our relative economic health is our rate of productivity growth in which we are lagging far behind.

Science, engineering and technology and post-secondary education should not be seen to be expenditure items for government cutbacks. These are necessary investments to secure Canada's future.