

Supply

the efforts of any of the opposition Members that led to the conclusion of this agreement. It was scheduled for today and the Hon. Member conveniently gave us a motion to which we could respond to make the official announcement. I thank him very much.

Let me conclude by saying that I think it is a fine agreement, certainly for Canada, certainly for the people of British Columbia, but it is just one type of funding into which we have entered to help. If one listens to the words of my hon. friend, one might have the feeling that the federal Government is doing nothing. That is the typical doom and gloom type of atmosphere which the NDP seems to love to foster. That is its stock in trade—to pull down, to destroy, to belittle. Let us not overlook the record.

Mr. Riis: Remember what happened to Frank Miller. He said the same thing.

Mr. Stevens: In the fiscal year just ended, the total ERDP cases which have been offered and accepted in British Columbia were for \$17.5 million and were 81 in number. The Defence Industry Productivity Program awards were four in number, totalling \$13.8 million. ILAP amounted in one case to \$1,300,000. The Native Economic Development Program had three cases for about \$500,000 in total. The Hon. Member referred to the plight of small business. In many cases I agree that it is a problem, but the Small Businesses Loans Act had guarantees in favour of 3,874 firms for a total of \$105,660,000. Shipbuilding through SIAP had 17 awards for \$3.7 million. The Western Transportation Industrial Development Program had one award for \$181,000; the Canadian Industrial Renewal Board, CIRB, \$625,000; Federal Business Development Bank loans to 410 companies for \$73,684,000. In those items alone we have over \$200 million worth of loan, guarantee or grant type assistance for those who are in business in British Columbia. Perhaps the NDP does not like to hear of that, but as far as we are concerned there are people and businessmen to be helped in British Columbia. We have been doing it, we will continue to do it, and we will continue to show fine leadership, notwithstanding the negative motion of the Hon. Member.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I just want to put a question, if I could, to the Minister who is enjoying, in his smugness, his own delicious self-satisfying words. This morning we called the communications advisor to the Minister and asked her whether there was to be any release or announcement today on these agreements which he just announced. She said: "No". I consider that to be a direct misrepresentation from the Minister's senior staff in an attempt, I suppose, to try to lure in the NDP or myself. I consider that completely misleading, and I will tell him that I will not trust his Department again. We asked a specific question. I want the Minister to look into this, and I want an apology from the Minister on behalf of his staff for having incorrectly responded to our question which was quite direct.

He was given his little smug time in the House this afternoon—

An Hon. Member: Did it affect your speech?

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): It did not affect my speech at all. The Minister responsible for research and development can smile, but if that is the kind of tactics which this Government is going to use in response to a question from the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, the civility about which the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) talks is not going to last very long in this House.

We called again just after the Minister made his announcement to ask for a copy of that release. The same people said: "The release has not yet been prepared. We can't give you a copy". Take it under advisement, Mr. Speaker, that we will know how to deal with this Minister in future.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, of course I am not aware of the conversation which a representative from the Official Opposition Leader's office apparently had with an official in my Department, but I can tell you there may have been an honest—

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): A deliberate lie, that is what it was.

Mr. Stevens: No, no.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Not from the Minister, from his staff.

Mr. Stevens: There may have been an honest misunderstanding, because the truth is that it was not until this morning that the Cabinet of British Columbia gave its final agreement to what has now been announced. We waited for that. Second, the drafting of the release took place at that moment when British Columbia sent on telex what it felt would be the suitable joint release. In turn we replied. That release, if it has not been released, is certainly being put out in British Columbia and in Ottawa currently. My understanding is that it is already out. The thing that I want to emphasize is that Mr. McClelland announced this in the B.C. legislature, certainly if not before Question Period during Question Period in this House. There was absolutely no intention on our part to withhold information or, certainly, to mislead the Leader of the Opposition or his staff in the way he has indicated.

● (1610)

Mr. McDermid: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to put to the Minister. I have listened quietly to the debate all afternoon. Coming from Ontario, I was very happy for the people of British Columbia. I listened to the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) knocking Expo '86. He said that it was not going to be a success and he was making bets across the floor of the House that it would be a failure. Does this type of attitude on the part of socialists in British