

again, and we are going to do that in spite of the negative comments from the NDP—

**Mr. Nunziata:** That is not what Frank Miller said.

**Mr. St. Germain:**—betting against the success of Expo and against—would you mind being quiet?

**Mr. Nunziata:** Oh, you do not like hearing about Frank Miller?

**Mr. St. Germain:** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition. He said that he wanted to be positive. If that is true, how could he possibly get up and discuss the situation in a province? Under our Constitution the provinces have the right to run their business the way they see fit. We should not even be discussing the business of B.C., we should be discussing the business of the federal Government, business such as that which was brought forward today.

I honestly believe that the Right Hon. Member has an honest desire to help the people in Vancouver Quadra and the rest of the province, but if he wants to be positive, why is he getting involved in such a negative approach? He questioned tourism, and that was mentioned today; he questioned mining, and that was mentioned today. He stated as fact that there was no R&D in the forest industry, a natural resource which was neglected by his Party. They never put any money in R&D. That is why the forest industry today is on its knees. They did not look after that natural resource when they were in government. They did not even have a Minister responsible for forestry. But this Government had that foresight. Would he comment on that, please?

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** I have no comment.

**Mr. St. Germain:** That figures.

**Mr. Belsher:** It is rather discouraging to realize that the opposition Members have failed to congratulate the Minister for the signing of this agreement. The Right Hon. Leader has at least spoken somewhat positively about British Columbia and is starting to represent his constituency in the province where we all come from. But given the gloom and doom we have heard from the NDP this afternoon, you would think it was a disaster area. I can tell you that it is not.

Having visited his constituency in the last several months, would the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition not agree that people there do find that a consultative process is taking place in Ottawa, something we assured the people of Canada we would start during our tenure here in Ottawa?

**Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra):** Mr. Speaker, the people of Vancouver Quadra feel that consultation is a very legitimate process but no substitute for decisions.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Jim Manly (Cowichan-Malahat-The Islands):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my appreciation to the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis) for bringing this

### Supply

motion forward. It was interesting to hear a bit of a debate between the Hon. Member for Mission-Port Moody (Mr. St. Germain) and the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap about whether our most important resource was trees or people. Certainly I would agree with the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap that people are our most important resource, but I would like to emphasize that Government, both federal and provincial, are neglecting both. If we want to look at the neglect of our human resource, we need only look at the way in which the provincial Government is neglecting the issue of education. We can look at the way in which it fired school boards which refused to knuckle under to budget cut-backs and the way in which it refused to pass federal funding on to universities. And we can also look at the way in which the federal Government has acquiesced to that.

● (1650)

The Right Hon. Member for Vancouver Quadra (Mr. Turner) questioned the appropriateness of using an Opposition Day in the House of Commons to criticize the Government of a province. Coming from British Columbia as I do, I feel this is entirely appropriate and necessary. Unlike the Hon. Member for Fraser Valley East (Mr. Belsher), when I go back to my riding I find that in many ways it is indeed a disaster area because of the high level of unemployment. I do not know the situation in his riding, but the situation in my riding cries out for government action. We are not seeing that action soon enough.

It was interesting that the Minister for Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) tried today to foist off on us the idea that everything had been agreed upon with regard to funding for the Province of British Columbia. I asked him about that yesterday and he was not able to give me an answer. A few weeks ago, Premier Bennett of British Columbia appealed to New Democratic and Progressive Conservative Members of Parliament from British Columbia to try to get a decent deal from the federal Government on the issue of funding. Conservative Members of Parliament from British Columbia are now saying what a great job they have done. If any job was done, it was probably done on Premier Bennett by giving him the message that \$525 million was absolutely the largest amount he was going to get rather than the \$650 million which British Columbia had to expect under an ERDA agreement. The 19 Conservative Members of Parliament from British Columbia did the job on the Province of British Columbia rather than pushing the federal Government for adequate funding.

The importance of this debate can be seen simply by looking at the unemployment statistics. During the election campaign, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) promised that there would be tens of thousands of jobs. When we discussed unemployment statistics in Question Period on Friday, the Prime Minister claimed that some 201,000 new jobs had been created. He said, "Those are the tens and tens of thousands of jobs which we promised. Unlike the Liberals, we have delivered on our promise". The Prime Minister says he has kept that promise.