

*Adjournment Debate*

ings. I hope we will hear tonight from the parliamentary secretary that the minister will take some action and put some pressure on the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) to withdraw his order in council cutting back VIA Rail service in western Canada.

**Mr. Mayer:** Good luck.

● (2225)

**Mr. Rémi Bujold (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member mentioned that some ministers have travelled on government planes to benefit dinners. I think the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pepin) denied that in the House today. Second, if the hon. member was here last week, he heard the reason why the Minister of Transport has made some cutbacks on VIA Rail. The Minister of Employment and Immigration (Mr. Axworthy) took some measures to be in charge—

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, all cuts in VIA Rail services were planned in such a way as to encourage surplus employees to adapt to change. The company and the unions representing the workers concerned have agreed on a series of measures designed to minimize the negative impact of the changes on the workers. In addition, the minister has encouraged the company and the unions to find other jobs for the employees to be laid off, especially at this time when there is a great demand for specialized workers throughout Canada. In the case of all surplus employees at VIA Rail the minister favours the setting

up of an employer-employee advisory committee under the sponsorship of the Manpower Advisory Service with the view to finding a solution to the workers' problems.

[*English*]

The hon. member asked what the Minister of Employment and Immigration as chairman of the Western Development Corporation has done to help western Canada. I remind him of the new economic initiative during the last year in western Canada through the efforts of the Minister of Employment and Immigration. First, there was Canertech, the new federal Crown corporation for alternate energy. Second, there was \$100 million for the core area development initiative by the federal government. There were 3,500 new jobs created to revitalize the centre of the city. Third, there was the micro-electronic research centre at the University of Manitoba. Fourth, there was a new computer facility for Air Canada in the city of Winnipeg at a cost of \$60 million. Finally, there was a \$150 million contract for aerospace firms, especially in the city of Winnipeg, in the year 1980. These are examples of what the Minister of Employment and Immigration as chairman of the Western Development Corporation has done for western Canada during the last year.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker):** The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at two o'clock p.m.

At 10.28 p.m. the House adjourned, without question put, pursuant to Standing Order.