

from \$70 million. The reason was an increase in transfer payments from the federal authority. It allowed the Province of Nova Scotia to show a reduced budget deficit of almost \$48 million.

Of course, the Government of Nova Scotia claimed good financial management, but the Leader of the New Democratic Party said no, that it was because of the actions of the federal Government that the Province of Nova Scotia was able to show such a dramatic change in its financial picture. She called it a windfall of federal funding to the Province of Nova Scotia.

Does the Hon. Member agree with his colleague from the NDP in Nova Scotia about the advantages of the increase in federal funding to Nova Scotia, and does he not agree that it will enhance the economic position of the province and enable Nova Scotia to better deal with the problems that it may face in the future?

Mr. Murphy: Mr. Speaker, it is quite interesting that the Conservative Member from the Halifax region does not know whether to support his Conservative Premier or the Conservative Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). I think that is part of the problem.

When he looks at his province and the unemployment rate, he will see that the provincial Government could be doing more. If he looks at the funding for the very many campuses in Nova Scotia, he will see that both the federal and provincial Governments could be doing more.

Whether the Nova Scotia deficit is going up or down is not a primary concern of this House. What is a primary concern of the House is whether those programs that we believe are important for the regions can be financed. If it is a situation where the Nova Scotia Government does not want to do these things, as the Member from Halifax indicates, then perhaps we should be putting strings on some of the funding, as was suggested by the NDP many years ago. We should be making sure that money is going into Medicare and post-secondary education. We should be making sure when there are ERDAs that the money is not directed for politically expedient programs to where there might be a by-election, a federal Cabinet Minister

Supply

or a new road to be built because there are a few votes out on the street which have not been gotten yet.

• (1240)

For the Hon. Member from Halifax to get up to say that his own Premier is not doing enough is something I can hardly fight him about. He must know. I have travelled in his own riding. As a result of his hard work it is now a New Democratic riding. I am not surprised that the people in Nova Scotia feel—

Mr. Blenkarn: How many New Democratic seats do you have in Nova Scotia?

Mr. Murphy: Having done a good job for the Liberals in Ottawa, the Hon. Member now wants to do something good for the New Democrats in eastern Canada.

The situation is that the people in Nova Scotia know that the provincial Government is not doing enough in those areas. All one has to do to see that is to travel along the various coastlines to the interior of Nova Scotia and into Cape Breton to know that the provincial Government could be doing more and that the federal Government could be doing a great deal more. I thank the Hon. Member for his question.

Mr. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have been quite liberally quoted this morning. I take that as a compliment, I guess. I would appreciate it if the Hon. Member would tell me where the words came from so I could pursue them.

I would certainly like to comment on one thing and ask the Hon. Member perhaps to explain better. On the one hand, he said, the federal Government has done nothing about foreign overfishing. On the other hand he talks about the Prime Minister's initiative in dealing with the Government of Spain. This is a situation about which there have been calls for action many times in this House, certainly by Members opposite. What we saw yesterday was the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) being very forceful with the Government of Spain. He made it very clear to the Government of Spain that this sort of activity is endangering Canadian fishermen and the Canadian fishery and that it is something that would affect the relationship between this country and Spain and this country and the European Community.

We have had an opportunity to hear so much about supposedly what the Government has not done. We have closed our ports to countries that fish outside their agreement with NAFO. We have told them that they