

Supply

development association funding agreement was allowed to lapse and was not taken up again until just several weeks ago, Mr. Speaker.

We are waiting to hear whether the federal Government will provide some financing for a convention centre in St. John's. It has provided financing for nine convention centres in Canada. Funding has been provided to Vancouver, Edmonton, Windsor, Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal, Quebec City, Halifax and Charlottetown. St. John's badly needs a convention centre. There are plans for a hotel, office tower and convention centre to go ahead at a total cost of \$36 million. The federal Government has been asked to provide \$3 million. Hopefully, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce will act in the next few weeks on that.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I really regret to interrupt the Hon. Member, but his speaking time has expired. Questions or comments?

Mr. Baker: Mr. Speaker, although the motion which is before the House says that the federal Government did away with the Department of Regional Economic Expansion, is the Hon. Member not aware that there have been substantial agreements signed with the Newfoundland Government recently and that blanket over-all agreements have been signed for the next 10 years? Does he not agree that these recent agreements will see substantial progress, economically speaking, in the Province of Newfoundland?

Mr. Crosbie: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that for well in excess of one year the Government of Newfoundland has been attempting to get the federal Government to conclude certain agreements. There were 10 initiatives agreed upon last September. There have only been two agreements signed since, one on minerals and one on planning. There was an agreement signed the other day, an ERDA agreement. One must be an alphabetical genius to keep up with the initials that the federal Government thinks up. An economic and regional development agreement was signed which is just a general over-all umbrella agreement. There may or may not be anything done under that agreement.

I do know that at the present time there is only going to be \$28 million spent in all of Newfoundland and Labrador this year under the heading of DRIE or DREE or ERDA or A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z. There will be only \$28 million spent when six years ago over \$76 million was spent. This shows what a feeble attempt your Government is making to do anything to help overcome regional disparity in Newfoundland and how ashamed you should be to be a member of that Party. You should not even offer to run down in Gander-Twillingate with such a record to run on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The Hon. Member for St. John's West should address his remarks to the Chair. It being one o'clock, this House stands adjourned until two o'clock this afternoon.

At 1 p.m. the House took recess.

AFTER RECESS

The House resumed at 2 p.m.

STATEMENTS PURSUANT TO S.O. 21

[English]

ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SECRETARY-GENERALSHIP—CANDIDACY OF MINISTER OF FINANCE

Mr. Dave Nickerson (Western Arctic): Mr. Speaker, now is the time for all patriotic Canadians to come to the aid of a worthy cause. The Minister of Finance (Mr. Lalonde), not wishing to be relegated to the backbenches by either John Turner or the present Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Chrétien), or indeed to suffer an even more diabolical fate planned for him by the Tories after the next General Election, wants to become the Secretary-General of the OECD.

After the famous photo opportunity, Canadians will remember that the last time the Finance Minister became concerned with his own career it cost them \$200 million. However, this should not prevent us from shipping him off to Paris. Being the closest thing to an aristocrat Canada has ever produced, he should fit right in. Paris's loss would be our gain.

The United States, in believing that a Canadian Liberal is far more of a left wing interventionist than French socialist Jean-Claude Paye whom they support, may be correct. But we must convince them that the removal of our friend, the Minister, from the North American continent would be as good for them as it is for us.

Canadians can, however, take heart. In the OECD sweepstakes our candidate appears to be winning by a nose.

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[Translation]

FRANCO-MANITOBANS' RIGHTS

DISSIDENTS IN PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

Mr. Gaston Gourde (Parliamentary Secretary to Solicitor General of Canada): Mr. Speaker, the Progressive Conservative Party has done it again. The Member for Kingston and the Islands (Miss MacDonald) has now expressed her approval of the destructive position on Franco-Manitoban language rights taken by Bud Sherman. What is really surprising is the assumption that this Party would admit avowed anti-Franco-phones among its members. Far from being anxious to repent, the Progressive Conservative Members are continuing their incredible crusade against the rights of linguistic minorities in Canada.