

problems. I can tell Hon. Members that since we took office last September we have signed seven economic and regional development agreements with the four Atlantic provinces; two each with Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia and one with New Brunswick. For these the federal Government has allotted almost \$230 million. Does that sound like indifference, Mr. Speaker? Does that sound like negligence, as the Hon. Member from the Official Opposition would have us believe? The people in Atlantic Canada know this is a Government that is attentive to their problems.

In addition to the \$230 million to which I have referred, let us not forget the Atlantic Accord with Newfoundland which calls for a further \$225 million in federal funds. Isn't it odd that a Member from Newfoundland would stand up and speak on this subject and not say how pleased he was that the offshore oil situation has been settled in a way satisfactory to the Government of Newfoundland?

An Hon. Member: He forgot.

Mr. Stevens: Somebody just suggested that maybe he forgot. Opposition Members do have very convenient memories.

I could go on and relate the multitude of programs that we are enhancing and developing as far as Atlantic Canada is concerned. For the last fiscal year, right up to the end of March, let me mention that ongoing programs pumped \$128,751,000 in federal funds into the Atlantic economy.

I mentioned earlier that I felt the record I related to was unsatisfactory and could be improved. I can also tell you that one of the most encouraging things, Mr. Speaker, in my capacity as development Minister, has been to meet with my provincial counterparts. That first occurred here in Ottawa in January. Incidentally that was the first time in Canadian history that development Ministers at the provincial and federal level have ever had a joint meeting. We did that. We met in Quebec City and further advanced co-operation and identified goals that we wanted to attain to get people back to work.

Later this month we will be going to Vancouver. Once again we will be having meetings. Later we are to go to St. John's, Newfoundland for a meeting in the summer. We have been meeting every two months. We believe there is an urgency in getting Canada's regions back to work to enjoy the prosperity that they rightly deserve as far as the federal Government is concerned.

I mentioned that I would love to come back to Devco. I am very pleased to be able to tell Hon. Members that here is a company that over the years has had hundreds of millions of dollars pumped into it. As I mentioned, the previous Government abandoned it. In fact, the company never did have a chief executive officer who had any experience in the mining business. We named Derek Rance as the chief executive officer. I met with him yesterday. He is taking some excellent steps to ensure the viability of Devco. But here is the good news. That company for the first time in a decade is going to show a profit for the past year.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Supply

Mr. Stevens: That profit has come from the fact that we have been able to get a 31 per cent increase in output per man-shift, a 25 per cent reduction in absenteeism and a 17 per cent reduction in accident frequency.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: We think we are on the right track. I can tell you, sir, that the more we clear away the underbrush, the indecision and the confusion which the last Government left us, the more we know we are on the right track as far as Devco is concerned. Because of the excellent results, we have agreed that there should be a profit-sharing plan for the employees of Devco, and the profit to which I have referred, the first profit that corporation has had for 10 years, will be shared 10 per cent by the employees and management of Devco, the people who have produced those results.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: That is the Brian Mulroney Government in action. We feel that Atlantic Canada can once again be one of the most viable, economically prosperous areas of this country, and if the Official Opposition would just back off a little, it will be surprised how quickly this turnaround is going to occur.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments?

Mr. Baker: I was smiling at the Minister from behind the curtains because I could see what a bind the Minister was in in trying to participate in this debate.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Baker: He did not seem to have much flow or logic in what he was saying. On the one hand he was saying, "Well, any unemployment and bad performance is due to the last Liberal Government".

An Hon. Member: That is right.

Mr. Baker: Then all of a sudden he said, "Well, for last year Devco is making a profit, but that is due to our Government." Last year was 1984, Mr. Speaker.

It is very interesting to hear what the Minister said. He accused me at the beginning of not mentioning transportation or regional development. The reason I did not is that I never got around to it. I got so caught up talking about the bad performance of this Government in the fisheries that I did not have the time to get to what the Government has done in transportation and regional development and what this Minister has done by cutting out \$200 million. From where did the Minister cut this money? He cut it from the industrial incentives program. In the document tabled by the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. de Cotret), he should explain what lay behind that move of his Government. The Minister does not realize certain things. He should examine the new ferry rates on the East Coast of Canada. He should examine all the