

As to the Montreal region, our government recognizes it faces particular problems. The unemployment and poverty problem in the central districts of the city of Montreal is particularly worrying. We know the east and southwest districts were the most affected by plant closings and massive lay-offs in the last few years. This is why the Canadian government has been actively promoting the economic renewal of that urban district for over two years.

The Industrial Recovery Program for East End Montreal, set up in June 1988, and PRISOM, launched in September of this year, both aim at re-inforcing and diversifying local industrial structures, attracting new investments, and furthering the creation and growth of new concerns, particularly small- and medium-sized businesses. The aggregate budget for these five-year programs is \$50 million.

Mr. Speaker, a word now about the positive and constructive efforts of the government in northern Ontario through FEDNOR which was established in 1987 to make sure that this region gets all the help it needs to achieve its full economic development potential. The \$55 million earmarked for this five-year project represented a major commitment, as a result of which a number of businesses were set up and jobs created in the whole region.

Under FEDNOR, over \$26 million in federal funds were allocated to finance some 311 projects. I must emphasize the fact that they also created and maintained nearly 2,225 jobs. The FEDNOR advisory council which is responsible for ensuring the relevance of all the FEDNOR programs to the local needs was totally involved in these contributions.

This government, in response to the very favourable reaction of the public towards FEDNOR, and in spite of budget cuts, made sure that businessmen in Northern Ontario received the assistance they needed so very much. That is the reason why an additional amount of \$14 million has just been allocated to FEDNOR.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, before blaming the government for its so-called disregard for regional equity, the hon. member for Essex—Windsor should have talked to the business people in Northern Ontario

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who appreciate in particular what the federal government has done so far for them through FEDNOR.

Mr. Speaker, FEDNOR has greatly helped business people in Northern areas meet the challenge and achieve their full potential. Under a special provision dealing with acquisition, FEDNOR is helping a whole series of Northern Ontario businesses sell their wares to the federal government.

Hardly a few weeks ago, representatives from over 80 businesses in 25 Northern Ontario communities came on a trade mission to the National Capital to present a sort of vista of Northern Ontario. This mission, sponsored and organized by FEDNOR, in co-operation with Supply and Services Canada, was intended to help Northern suppliers do business with the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, government activities in Northeastern Ontario, which is going through a difficult period, are worthy of note. In the Témiscamingue area, for instance, FEDNOR representatives have helped speed up processing of applications for regional assistance. Thanks to FEDNOR, investments by Pyrok and Dymond Clay will make a major contribution to the region's economy. We could name several programs, including agriculture, but above all, Mr. Speaker, this government has played a major role in recognizing the importance of the economy of Northern Ontario and Northern Quebec. My point is, Madam Speaker, that our approach has been successful. In fact, we are nearing our goal, which is equality for all Canadians. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

[English]

Mr. Bill Kempling (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Employment and Immigration): Mr. Speaker, the motion put forward by the hon. member for Essex—Windsor is interesting and intriguing and I must just read it again so that we will see where we are going.

• (1550)

The motion reads:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consider the advisability of protecting and extending the important role of social ownership in the economy, in order to achieve the social goals of full employment, regional equity, technological development and equality among Canadians.

I appreciate the hon. member's desire for full employment in Canada, and I understand and respect the hon. member's wish to invest in Canadian men and women