

an agreement with British Columbia regarding the IRDA arrangements.

In short, I would like to emphasize that this Government is picking up after the sad record of the previous Government. It has acted effectively by getting regional development moving again. I would like to start itemizing the results.

Let us not forget what we have been doing. You will recall the Atlantic Accord, Mr. Speaker. For many years the previous Government could not reach an agreement with the Province of Newfoundland. The present Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) and the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) were able to conclude that offshore agreement. What a breakthrough that was!

Mr. Lapierre: We have yet to see the results.

Mr. Stevens: Under the former Government, you would never have seen the results. I hope the Hon. Member realizes that.

Then there was the Western Accord. Can you believe, Mr. Speaker, that a Member from western Canada would criticize the present Government through this motion while totally ignoring the impact of the National Energy Program on the western provinces? That is what I mean when I say that this Hon. Member has a short memory. I despair for him. Surely he could remember the events of last year. Surely he knows of the unemployment that now exists in Alberta thanks to the former Government's National Energy Program. Surely he knows of the unemployment that now exists in British Columbia thanks to many of the former Government's policies affecting that area.

● (1150)

It is our job—and I can assure the House that we will accept the challenge—to turn some of those misdirected programs around and get Canada back on the road to prosperity.

I noted that the Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry liked to dwell on Manitoba. He mentioned the Port of Churchill. I can tell him that the Port of Churchill, as far as we are concerned, is a priority. Again, for the first time, we specifically asked Ministers from the Manitoba Government to join the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski), the Minister of State for the Canadian Wheat Board (Mr. Mayer), myself and other representatives at the federal level to discuss all of the ramifications of the Port of Churchill. At that meeting, CN was represented as well as Canada Ports. I believe it was a worth-while meeting which led to a renewed priority which will be given to the Port of Churchill and an intensive examination of its potential.

I would also like to say that in our annual meeting, under the ERDA arrangement with the Government of Manitoba, we succeeded in reaching various agreements, which I believe will prove to be very beneficial for that province in the coming months and years.

I remind the Hon. Member that this Government arranged for equalization payments to Manitoba to be raised by \$50

million from the figure which was projected in February. I can only say that the equalization payment—and I am sure other Members who belong to the same Party as the present Government in Manitoba must have heard it—was a very welcome adjustment for that province.

I have referred to the successful negotiations with the Manitoba Ministers. If I may, I would like to speak about specifics. The Minister of State for Tourism (Mr. McMillan) and his provincial counterpart have signed a \$30 million Manitoba tourism development agreement. At the meeting on the Nelson River, we agreed with Manitoba that there would be a subsidiary agreement for industrial development. We believe that that agreement will be signed by the end of June. Further, we agreed to implement a memorandum of understanding for hydroelectric development project co-ordination. We hope to be able to sign that memorandum this month. On May 10, the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Siddon) signed a memorandum of understanding on science and technology with his provincial counterpart. We are also investigating the feasibility of a trade development organization that will concentrate on the Prairies, which will likely have its main base in Winnipeg. When we met with our Manitoba counterparts, we agreed, in consultation with federal and provincial Health Ministers, to explore joint initiatives in health care products and services.

I could go on to cite the various things which we are doing of an IRDP nature in Manitoba. I can only say that we are encouraged by the agreements which we have been able to achieve to date. Second, we are encouraged by the fact that the private sector is responding.

The Hon. Member for Winnipeg-Fort Garry referred to Crown corporations. I believe he will find that the Crown corporations which we inherited are now running more effectively and have a greater backlog of orders—be it de Havilland or Canadair—than they have had for many years. In the case of the Cape Breton Development Corporation, it has had a profitable year for the first time in its history. I do not only regard that as good regional development for the sake of the regions concerned, but good economic development for Canada.

The target of this Government is to bring down the 11 per cent or 12 per cent unemployment level which the previous Government left. The previous Government took the country from a rate of unemployment which was approximately 4 per cent when it first took power to what it is today. This Government's target is to bring down the unemployment level to something which approaches full employment in the country. Anything which the Government does of an economic development nature is designed to relieve the unemployment tragedies which exist in Canada at regional and provincial levels.

As far as this Government is concerned, the course is clear. The Budget will outline some of the new initiatives which we intend to take. Unlike the Official Opposition and its socialist allies, this Government has confidence in the country. This Government believes that there is room for Canadian and