

Supply

enjoy a \$1.8 billion increase of total value-added benefits to the Canadian economy. As well, approximately \$1.1 billion worth of new salaries will flow from Expo '86. It relates to 63,000 person-years of employment and an increase of \$487 million in combined provincial and federal revenues. Seventy per cent of the benefits will accrue to the Province of British Columbia.

In conclusion, I would like to say that this motion is entirely out of order and inappropriate in relation to the degree of optimism which I and my 19 colleagues feel about the future of British Columbia, especially in light of the very positive and significant announcement which was made in the House this afternoon by my colleague, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments?

Mr. Waddell: Mr. Speaker, the Minister must be spending all of his time in Ottawa and not any in Richmond, British Columbia. He does not understand that B.C. is mired in a recession. It has a 14.8 per cent rate of unemployment. In the rest of Canada, unemployment statistics have decreased, but the statistics in British Columbia have increased. The Premier of British Columbia, who has mismanaged the economy of that province even to the extent of putting the northeast coal megaproject in the wrong place, has not concentrated on development. That Premier is complaining that the federal Tories are not doing anything for him.

There is no pipeline on Vancouver Island. The forestry research grant was cut by \$3.5 million in November. The fees to fishermen were cut by \$6.3 million. The Minister abolished the National Research Council Energy Division and all the economic spinoffs that it would have provided to private enterprise. There were cut-backs in research programs into fishery and salmon enhancement.

Now that a Budget will be brought down, I would like to ask the Minister a question. In the City of Vancouver, the Social Credit Government, his friend, has undemocratically cut the whole Vancouver School Board. Is the Minister, who comes from the greater Vancouver area, prepared to use the influence which the federal Government has to get the B.C. Government to stop its undemocratic actions and its restraint programs which are killing the people of B.C.? If the Minister is so concerned about the deficit, then why did he give \$3 billion to 12 large oil companies, ten of which are American-owned? Those oil companies will benefit to the tune of \$3 billion. Will the Minister assure us that he will not look for that \$3 billion in the Budget which will be brought down next week? Will he assure us that that money will not be taken out of the hides of the ordinary people of Canada, especially those in British Columbia.

The Minister has been spending too much time in Ottawa. The people in B.C. are suffering. There are food banks in my riding. Other parts of Canada may be recovering, but British Columbia is not recovering. I do not want to hear things about ERDA, because the Government has been dragging its feet for months on that. There are a lot of loose ends with respect to

that agreement. When will the Minister do something concrete to stop the restraint and punishment which has been forced on the ordinary citizens of British Columbia? When will the Minister stop talking about deficits and start talking about stimulating the Canadian economy, especially in British Columbia?

Mr. Siddon: Mr. Speaker, I tried to save the best news until last, but unfortunately I delivered it before the Hon. Member arrived in the House. Obviously, he has not been following the debate this afternoon. If he had, notwithstanding the points of debate which he raised, he would have realized that many of his concerns had been addressed. As he well knows, he has overstated the dilemma. Much as there is an unemployment problem in British Columbia, I believe that it is more important to approach the future with optimism, rather than with the paranoid, negative attitude which flows so frequently from opposition benches.

Surprisingly, he is the only opposition Member from British Columbia in the House. I travel to British Columbia virtually every weekend. I do not know where he spends his time because I do not often see him travelling to British Columbia. If he wants to criticize me for my attendance in my riding, I could do likewise. In fact, the people of my constituency are very pleased with the fact that there are several Members from British Columbia on the government side of the House. I think that is a reflection of the will which the people of Canada expressed on September 4, and I trust that it will continue to be expressed in the future.

I would like to make one final comment. The Hon. Member raised the question about who are our friends and enemies. He said that we should use some clout. The legacy which was left to this Government was a legacy of antagonism, frustration, aggravation and confrontation. That was created partly because of the dynasty of mismanagement which the country experienced under a socialist Prime Minister who was supported by his colleagues in the NDP. Our friends are to be found in the Parti Québécois in Quebec, in the New Democratic Party in Manitoba, and in the Social Credit Party in British Columbia to the same extent that they are found in Progressive Conservative administrations across Canada. This Government believes that if it does not start out with a common commitment to solve Canada's problems and stop living in the past, as our friends opposite constantly wish to do, we will never overcome the problems which face Canada.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Foster: Mr. Speaker, the Minister spent quite a bit of time talking about the glowing prospects of the economy. I have not seen an economic forecaster project a growth in the Gross National Product this year of over 2.3 per cent or 2.4 per cent. If we compare that with 1983, when the economic growth in this country was 3.5 per cent and with 1984, when it was 4.9 per cent, and then look back at the Prime Minister's (Mr. Mulroney) prophecies and commitments during the election campaign that he was going to create literally hundreds of thousands of jobs, we start to wonder whether this Govern-