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the State of Washington, will move into their areas and close Canadian processing plants.

Here you have a program of regional development which is trying to create a few jobs, and yet is destroying an entire industry. It is an absolutely astounding role to play. Regional development operations are not ensuring that people can organize and bargain collectively for wages. Low wage units mean that the foreign companies that the Conservatives have invited in usually take higher profits out of those areas and remove them right out of Canada. At least with a decent wage level, protected by a collective agreement, more money stays in that community and the greater benefit from the resources we have is spread among the residents of that community.

But what has happened with the fishing industry on the coast of British Columbia is absolutely catastrophic. It makes a mockery of any regional development proposal when the government is prepared to destroy industries like the forest industry and fishing industry.

Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood): Madam Speaker, first of all I want to congratulate the member for North Island—Powell River for that section of his remarks that dealt with family life. Too often we in this House forget the importance of talking about family issues. His remarks today were some of the finest I have heard.

I come from a riding where 25 per cent of the children come from single parent families and it is tough right now. It is especially tough with a government that is retreating from its responsibilities. But I have always had pretty good luck with this Minister of National Health and Welfare and I want to ask the hon. member a very specific question.

Does he not think that there is a possibility that this particular women's resource centre, which he claims has been turned down for only \$25,000, may have been turned down because of a bureaucratic foul-up rather than the political will retreating again?

Mr. Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Unfortunately, we have lost that resource centre as well as the one in Alberni and the one in Courtenay. I guess it was just the selection within the department as to where those budget cuts were applied. My colleague says Penticton is gone. The dilemma was the funding cuts. To my way of

thinking, when they began to cut the national organization's budget they made the ability to lobby the government ineffective. The next step was to take out the women's resource centres. The two activities, of course, are delivering services but they are so constrained in the delivery of those services by the present legislative framework that they had to begin an intensive lobbying process to try to increase funding for the services and their core funding, and to try to get the legislative framework within which women are confined changed.

I really think that behind the cost saving motivation of the government was this fear of the political action that women were taking. That political action was to try to create greater space in which they could work. That greater space is respect for the individual and equality. Unfortunately, that is why this must be turned around.

I too have great respect for the Minister of Health and his predecessor. It is my hope that they, in their concern for the health of Canadians, can see the development of programs. The member mentioned that 25 per cent of the children in the area that he represents are the children of single parent families. There is also, of course, the problem of drug and alcohol. Enormous difficulties are created for individuals and families by that. There is a very limited amount of treatment available or prevention activities. There is greater stress on police enforcement, on one side, but we do not have the corresponding support for people in the drug and alcohol programs and the treatment centres. Hopefully that minister can be of greater assistance in making sure that we have that resource that women's centres have been crying for as well.

Ms. Joy Langan (Mission—Coquitlam): Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. member for tying into this debate the very important issue of the cuts to women's programs. I was quite fascinated when he pointed out that although this government claims to be in support of women and children when it comes to family violence and protection of the family, it has cut and put women on notice not only in Transition House and the Women's Centre in Campbell River in the member's riding, but in 28 women's centres out of 33 in British Columbia. I found that astonishing. The cutting of the federal government funding means the doors have closed and those women have been fired.