

Supply

I was also surprised by the Right Hon. Member's comment that he thought the priorities should be set in Ottawa. I will tell him that the people of British Columbia are tired of priorities being set in Ottawa. They want to be part of setting the priorities, and that is the kind of Government this is. We work jointly with the provinces to work out priorities which will create jobs and wealth for this country, including British Columbia.

The Right Hon. Member seems to write off all of our policy, so I ask him whether he would not agree that one of the most important steps—and he alluded to it—was the signing of the Western Accord on energy. As a result of that policy and the co-operative efforts of the federal and provincial Governments and I am sure he is aware of this—we had the announcement last week of a \$600 million fertilizer plant in Vancouver. I talked to the people involved in that project last night and they said they had worked on it for five years but it was only after the Western Accord was signed that they could go ahead with confidence. That is a \$600 million investment by the private sector. There are no government grants but there are jobs for Canadians. That is the kind of thing this Government is providing to the people of British Columbia.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Mr. Speaker, I think this is a very encouraging session. We are hearing some of these Members for the first time.

Mr. Mayer: Where have you been?

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I want to encourage them to make some speeches of their own rather than responding to ours.

Mr. McDermid: Her comments were better than your whole speech.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): After eight or nine months of a Conservative Government, including 19 Members from British Columbia, all we have is the ERDA agreement, which was virtually ready for signature when the previous Government was defeated.

Mr. Siddon: It was not.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): So the Government signed that agreement. Eight months have gone by and all we have is a funding agreement, or a joint press release; we have no underlying agreement signed whatsoever.

Mr. Riis: No details.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): So the announcement by the Minister today was a bit of spurious and deliberately coincidental camouflage.

Mr. McDermid: Jealousy does not look good on you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco) on a question or comment.

Some Hon. Members: Who?

Mr. Brisco: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Leader of the Opposition when was the last time that his forestry critic stood in his place and asked the Minister of State for Forestry (Mr. Merrithew) a question.

Mr. Nunziata: We don't know who he is.

Mr. Brisco: Because I can tell him that he has yet to ask a question on forestry on the floor of the House of Commons. That is how effective his forestry critic is. The Right Hon. Member waxes eloquent about forestry. I can tell him that his critic does not seem to be a darn bit interested in it, and I do not think he himself is interested in it either. What he is doing is just giving us empty rhetoric.

Let me come back to the National Energy Program because I was in Alberta when that happened. I was not here; I had been defeated. I was in Alberta when that program came out and I watched the blue collar workers go down the tube, and those people over there helped drive them down. It was not the big buck guys; it was the little guy who took the beating, and the Liberals were ably supported by the NDP. It was the Right Hon. Member's Government that did it.

If we want to get a little bit personal about it, let me tell him what I did when I was defeated. They said to me, "Brisco, you have got to take your severance pay"; what is it, the pension fund? They said I have to take my pension money. So I took it and invested it in Canadian oil stocks. The Liberals brought in their program and my stocks went right out the window.

Some Hon. Members: Oh!

Mr. Brisco: It was his Government that did it. Sure, you people think it is funny, but I can tell you that to buy them back is going to cost me \$20,000.

Mr. Nunziata: We can't help it if you are a lousy investor.

Mr. Brisco: Who the hell can afford it? But they sit over there and grin. Sure, you are a self-satisfied bunch of turkeys.

Let me give you another example. The people in my riding invested in a major hotel in Fort St. John. They invested in their country and their province. Then you brought in your program, the hotel went down the tube and Fort St. John became a ghost town. Don't you sit in your places and tell us what the hell to do! We're going to turn this country around, we're going to do the job that you totally failed to do. You are just useless!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I am glad the Hon. Member got it out of his system.

Mr. St. Germain: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment just to compliment the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens). This man sat down with us hour after hour in negotiations as we worked out an agreement. We worked out that agreement in consultation and conciliation, something that the Right Hon. Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Turner) and his group never understood. The time has come in the history of this country when we are going to go forward