

Mr. Riis: When they pay for their legal fees, they will pay the new federal sales tax; when they fill out a will, they will pay the new federal sales tax; when they have their tax return completed, they will have to pay a federal sales tax on top of that; when they go to the dentist, they will have to pay a federal sales tax; when they have their oil changed and their spark plugs changed, they will have to pay a new federal sales tax; when they have a music lesson, their children will have to pay a national sales tax. It goes on and on and on. You can plainly see that there is a national sales tax on every business service in the country.

* * *

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

ESTABLISHMENT OF ROUGE VALLEY HERITAGE PARK URGED

Mr. W. Paul McCrossan (York—Scarborough): Mr. Speaker, the Rouge Valley system, located in York—Scarborough, is the last significant wildlife area remaining near Toronto. The area has a rich and diverse ecology, supporting a wide variety of birds, fish, mammals and reptiles. Regionally, rare plants and several important archaeological sites are also found in the valley.

Most of the land in the Rouge Valley is publicly owned. However, both the conservation authority and the provincial Government have indicated that they want to sell the land to private developers for luxury housing, and Metro Toronto has indicated it thinks the Rouge Valley would be the ideal site for a new dump.

Environmentalists in Canada and around the world have recognized the importance of the Rouge Valley ecosystem. Since local and provincial authorities appear unwilling to preserve the last remaining wildlife area near Toronto, it is time for the federal Government to indicate that it would be prepared to manage the area as our first Canadian heritage park.

* * *

FISHERIES

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR INSHORE FISHERY

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, yesterday, in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador, Newfoundlanders, no matter where they lived, were shocked and angered by the response of the Member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), Newfoundland's sole representative in the federal Cabinet, to questions raised in this House about the disastrous inshore fishery in the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador this year.

The Member for St. John's West calmly informed the House that he had toured St. John's West and found no evidence of an inshore fishery within that primarily city riding and, therefore, there was no problem in the entire Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

S. O. 21

The fishermen and fishermen's families in Newfoundland, whether they are in Burin—St. Georges, represented by the Minister's colleague, whether they are in Bonavista—Trinity—Conception, in western Newfoundland, Humber—Port au Port—St. Barbe, whether they are in Labrador, know that there is hunger in their communities today and that fishermen's families are reeling from the double bang of low prices and an absence of fish in many communities.

They want a compassionate, caring, and sober response to the reality that besets them. Just as we properly and rightly responded to the need of farmers, primary producers, we must respond to the fishermen of Atlantic Canada today.

* * *

● (1410)

WESTERN DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAM

GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO WESTERN CANADA

Mr. William G. Lesick (Edmonton East): Mr. Speaker, let there be no question about it. The Western Diversification Program introduced in August of 1987 has been a resounding success in its first fiscal year of operation. Western Canada has made great strides forward in diversifying its economy as a result of this federal government program.

To date there have been 503 projects approved with over \$345 million being allocated to the western economy. These results represent jobs and prosperity for all regions of the West. This program has also demonstrated the commitment of the Conservative Government to the economy and the people of western Canada.

* * *

AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

LOCATION OF PROPOSED SPACE AGENCY

Mr. Mike Cassidy (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, once again the Conservatives are playing politics with the decision about where to locate the headquarters of the new Canadian space agency. Having gutted the National Research Council by spending cuts in 1985 and having ignored his election promises to expand research and development in Canada, the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is now trying to attract votes in Quebec by promising that the space agency will go to Montreal at the same time as he tries to hang on to votes in the Ottawa area by endlessly deferring the final decision.

The fact is that, while the Government has delayed this announcement, the work of the space agency has been taking place in the national capital area for the last two years. As an Ottawa Member, I think that the space agency should be located in the national capital region because this is where the work has been taking place. I also think that a competent Government would have made this decision two years ago rather than used it as a political football.