

Supply

Mr. Riis: It is easy to talk about doom and gloom if you come from British Columbia. I respect the Hon. Member, but I think he really betrayed his true opinion when he said that the most important resource in that province, and probably Canada, is trees. It is not young people, elderly people, workers, managers, entrepreneurs or industrialists. Trees are the most important. He said it. I cannot believe that he would have that kind of courage. That is where he is coming from and that is that. I will have to mute my criticism because I understand that particular perspective.

● (1550)

Let us be positive. If he wants to help British Columbia, Let him sign a forestry agreement, a tourism agreement, sign a mining agreement and sign an economic development agreement. B.C. is the only province now in Canada where that has not been done. It is the Minister's responsibility. It is the Government's responsibility. It is not ours in the NDP. It is not theirs in the Liberal Party. You are the Government. You are supposed to be signing those agreements. Why is it that British Columbia is the last province to receive that kind of financial support? We are talking about hundreds of millions of dollars from the federal government. Deliver it. Help out. Be positive.

Mr. Manly: Get the money.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleague what he thinks the ramifications will be to his province of the planned investment by a Canadian pulp and paper company to construct a paper mill in Washington State? We gather that will compete directly with the producers in British Columbia. Will that make things better or worse for the people in the Province of British Columbia?

Mr. Riis: That is a tough question, Mr. Speaker. I will give it a try. I appreciate the point. When the Hon. Member was speaking, I remembered the announcement a few months ago about how the Government had assisted to the tune of tens of millions of dollars in the development of a new copper mine in Peru and how our taxpayers' money was being used to develop that copper mine to compete with the copper mines in the Highland Valley and other parts of Canada. It is the same type of approach, Mr. Speaker. It is very thoughtless. If you like, it is based on the assumption that what is good for business is automatically good for the country, it is good for everybody. I am not saying that everything business does is bad. Of course not. I am saying that we must not as responsible parliamentarians have the approach that what is good for any pulp and paper company or any copper company or any industry is automatically good for the entire country. That is not the case.

Concerning the question my hon. friend asked, we have to look very carefully at how we support industry. If we are going to support industry, it is through the tax system or through grants, but for gosh sakes let's make absolutely certain that it is in the best interests of Canada and Canadians and, in this case for today of British Columbians.

Hon. Sinclair Stevens (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion): Mr. Speaker, I am always amazed at how far behind events the socialists are in this House. I just listened to the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis): say: "sign a forestry agreement, sign a tourism agreement, sign an agricultural agreement" in very dramatic fashion. I do not know where the Hon. Member has been. Does he not realize that a release was issued this morning pointing out that we have reached an agreement with the Province of British Columbia—

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. All I can say is that is about bloody time, after about eight months of waiting, that we have got that particular agreement.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Siddon: Always doom and gloom.

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, if I came from British Columbia I would be proud. I would feel that it is an honour to come to Ottawa and tell the people of Canada about my province, that it is one of the finest provinces in which to live.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. McDermid: He was against Expo '86.

Mr. Stevens: When we read this motion which the Hon. Member has put before us, talking in terms so negative about his provincial government and, of course, about the federal government—

Mr. McDermid: And about Expo '86.

Mr. Stevens: —I would like to show the contrast through a joint press release that was issued this morning. I will read if I may:

The British Columbia and Federal Governments have reached agreement on a \$525 million Economic and Regional Development Agreement.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: The announcement goes on.

An Hon. Member: What do you say now, Manly?

Mr. Manly: It is falling short.

Mr. Stevens: The announcement goes on:

The announcement was made jointly today by Industry and Small Business Development Minister Bob McClelland and the Honourable Sinclair Stevens, Federal Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Stevens: It goes on:

The five-year agreement, with each government contributing 50 per cent or \$262.5 million, will provide joint funding for provincial initiatives in forestry,