

Adjournment Debate

example, in the past organized additional transportation for visitors from Newfoundland to visit inmates housed on the mainland of Atlantic Canada and has modified procedures to enable extended family visits for inmates.

● (1820)

The new institution will have significant and continuing beneficial economic impact on the community. Of an estimated capital cost of \$68.2 million, a substantial portion will be spent on local construction materials, goods and services. It is projected that 700 job years will be created over the 1985-88 period.

[Translation]

REGULATIONS—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION OF TASK FORCE CREATED TO STUDY CERTAIN ASPECTS

Mr. Gabriel Fontaine (Lévis): Mr. Speaker, on April 16, 1986, I asked the Minister responsible for regulations (Mr. Hnatyshyn) to inform the House on the latest developments in this area.

As you know, in the summer of 1984 our Government proposed three very important themes to the Canadian people.

Reconciliation and harmonious relations with the provinces were some of our priorities. To date, we have concluded both the Eastern and Western Accords, and, Mr. Speaker, as a Quebecer I can state that relations between Quebec and Ottawa have never been better than today, compared with what they were during the last twenty years when the Liberals governed this country and allowed a climate of hostility to develop between Quebec and Ottawa.

We also spoke of liberalizing trade relations with our main trading partner, the United States of America.

In this area we have made tremendous progress, so much so that the Americans sent signals that they were becoming wary of this process of liberalizing our trade relations because they understood that the Government of Canada was determined to negotiate in earnest, while clearly respecting the interests of the Canadian people.

Mr. Speaker, we also said that our Government would respect and get closer to the private sector, the only valid partner for a progressive government. We wanted to rid it of the bureaucratic burden of obsolete regulations and red tape.

As early as September 18, 1984, only two weeks after Canadians approved our election program, we announced that a departmental task force had been created to examine Government programs. On November 16, 1984, a group of responsible Canadians, under the chairmanship of Mr. Philip Aspin, formed the private sector advisory group. This group, which itself was to be sub-divided into nineteen sub-task forces, examined over 1,000 government programs representing nearly \$100 billion in expenditures.

On March 11, 1986, the Deputy Prime Minister of Canada (Mr. Nielsen) tabled the Nielsen Report in the House, a report drafted by the task force responsible for examining programs.

The House referred the various parts of the report to various standing committees of the House, for assessment, so that the committees could make their own recommendations as soon as possible to the House, with the co-operation of Members from all three political parties.

Mr. Speaker, we know that a sound and fair assessment of current programs and legislation by the various parliamentary committees will make it possible to recommend, to legislators and Government officials, ways of achieving substantial savings.

Committee members will also have to consider the additional and very substantial economic impact that will surely result from the Nielsen report, and I am thinking of lower production costs for goods and services offered by Canadian companies.

Hon. Members will have to realize that pressure groups and municipal and provincial governments can no longer afford to think and regulate within a local, mini-regional or regional framework. Today, legislators must expand their thinking to fit the national and often even the global context. The chair on which we sit in our home may come from Sweden, while we are watching the news on an American network and our TV is imported from North Korea.

Hon. Members will have to assess the various legal irritants between provinces, construction codes, parity committees and employment permits that apply only province-wide. We will have to review our labour laws, transport legislation, and the regulations of various departments such as Fisheries, Agriculture and Environment, including areas such as food. When talking about the Province of Quebec we will have to consider the fact those taxpayers have to file two returns, one with Quebec City and one with Ottawa.

We will have to take a second look at duplication in legislation and policies concerning the development of our natural resources and matters related to northern regions. We will have to put an end to overlapping foreign programs and duplication in regional industry assistance.

Mr. Speaker, we will have to urge all Canadian men and women to realize that we can no longer live as if we were not part of the whole world. Manufacturers had to face this fact, federal and provincial legislators must now follow suit, and unions will no longer be able to ignore this timely, universal and urgent truth.

● (1825)

[English]

Mr. Doug Lewis (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the Hon. Member for Lévis (Mr. Fontaine) for the interest he has demonstrated in this very important Government initiative. It is characteristic of his ongoing involvement in, and dedication to, the administrative and economic issues of Quebec and Canada and how they work together.