

evidence proves the contrary. The second part of the motion suggests that the Government has failed to meet its campaign promises. Any reasonable minded person would have to concede that within its first eight months of office, a new Government could not be expected to fulfil all of its promises unless, of course, it is the view that promises translate into hand-outs or into redistributing chunks of cash that we obtain from the taxpayers to other people who happen to get in line first. That is not the style of this Government.

**Mr. Waddell:** Like the ERDA agreement.

**Mr. Siddon:** The priority of this Government is to work in partnership—

**Mr. Waddell:** What is the ERDA agreement? Don't be a hypocrite.

**Mr. Siddon:** If the Hon. Member would give me an opportunity to respond, I would be happy to respond. The ERDA agreement represents seed money, the kind of effective investment by Government which does not buy jobs but makes a down payment on them. It flows from a partnership between two levels of Government and draws the municipal and regional levels of Government into the mix with the private sector and, hopefully, in many cases with the use of investment and resources from organized labour and other sources. I am speaking of the federal Government creating a positive climate and attitude together with its provincial partners.

Hon. Members opposite certainly do not expect promises to be fulfilled within a matter of a few weeks or a few months. I would suggest that if they are patient and watch the trends in the indices, they will see a significant improvement in the unemployment rates within the next two or three years and indeed they will see tens of thousands of new jobs from one end of the country to the other.

We have to create a more industrially intensive economy, bearing in mind the fragility of our environment and the importance of using our resources wisely. Therefore, for British Columbia, as well as the commitments that have been made under the ERDA agreement, the Industrial and Regional Development Program is proving to be of great benefit. The IRDP is the core program of my colleague, the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion.

Last November 9, the Minister announced an increased emphasis on the use of this program to support innovation, technology and trade. Indeed, this program which is available to budding new industries, middle-sized industries and larger industries as seed money or front-end assistance either by way of renewable contributions, interest-free loans or grants, is going to be a very important element in the future development of the province. The Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion announced earlier this afternoon that an additional \$50 million of that IRDP program would be managed jointly by the two levels of Government and targeted to the small and medium-sized industrial initiatives rooted in innovation and the development of new industry and enterprise in the province.

### *Supply*

I might point out that the IRDP program is proving to be increasingly beneficial to British Columbia in that the traditional statistics have shown a bias toward the large industrial regions of Canada. In the past nine months, there has been tremendous flow of additional funding to new economic activity in British Columbia. For the nine months prior to March 31, 1985, 73 IRDP projects were approved for British Columbia with expenditures totalling over \$23 million. This compares to the only 34 project and just over \$5 million spent during the corresponding period of the previous year under a Liberal administration. We have seen more than a doubling in the number of projects since September 4 and more than four times as much IRDP money going into British Columbia under a Progressive Conservative Government.

In addition, I want to emphasize that the over-all effect of the November 8 economic statement will be a stimulation of private sector research and development. It is our objective to see the fledgling industries and the established high-tech industries in the province grow and contribute to a more diversified and stable economy. That is an area in which the Industrial and Regional Assistance Program will be very, very helpful to the future of the province.

There are a number of other initiatives which will create new economic activity, not only in British Columbia but across Canada. The Government's decision to spend \$1.5 billion to upgrade the North Warning System will have major economic implications for Canada and particularly for our technology-intensive industries. Over 7,000 person-years of work will be created in the communications industry alone. One initiative of the federal Government that is of special interest to me is the one that I announced two weeks ago in the form of an interim space plan for Canada. The announcement was greeted as good news by the vibrant space community which is evolving in British Columbia and throughout Canada.

● (1740)

Of course, the Western Accord on energy has been of tremendous benefit. I received a news release at 2.30 p.m. today which indicated that Mobil Oil Limited and Petro-Canada had announced a participation agreement to establish a major LNG facility to export western natural gas to the Far East.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Siddon:** That announcement would not have been possible were it not for the new measures and the elimination of the retrograde provisions of the National Energy Program. That is the kind of initiative which this Government has taken.

We have also announced increased funding to granting councils for the Medical Research Council and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. In addition to science and technology and economic development, Expo '86 promises to be a great shot in the arm for British Columbia and, indeed, for all of Canada. I would like to indicate that a recent study of Expo '86 indicates that Canada will enjoy an increase in the Gross National Product of \$3.4 billion. We will