

*Private Members' Business*

rates, on mortgage rates, and on entrepreneurial loans to small and medium sized businesses.

One of the problems we have with the co-operative movement today is that no one has taken the time to marshal the forces of the various membership. I remember a lawyer friend of mine, Joe Pomerant, spent about three years of his life working with various aspects of the co-operative movement. He showed that if he could amalgamate the various co-operative clubs which existed in Ontario and use that buying power, he could lower vacation travel costs by as much as 30 per cent or 40 per cent. Those are substantial numbers.

That same spirit could be applied to the workforce. We are dealing in a world where we have to show world-class competitiveness. It just cannot be at the negotiating table when we are redoing our union contract. It also has to be in the quality of our work and the level of productivity in our work.

If the co-operative movement were to factor this noble objective which I support into its negotiations, its wages might be a lot lower, thereby making us much more competitive and thereby making opportunity for job creation and growth a lot easier.

In the marshalling of the co-op movement the available spin-off resources are limitless. We have never really put a tight focus on how we can use this, especially during times of recession. However, as the member from Edmonton mentioned earlier, if these co-operatives are to be organized, if they are going to be like bridge points for exclusive clubs, if they are to be used to get preferential financing and once the financing is in place, people develop, grow and move beyond the basic objective of the system, to the exclusion of others, that is not a very sound or logical way to go.

The co-operative movement, time and time again throughout history, has pulled us through some very tough times. In any riding across Canada where there is difficulty, it is only when all of us get together and pitch in that we actually pull ourselves out of some of the severe crises that we get ourselves in.

The member from Essex—Windsor, the man who is the driving force behind this motion, he should perhaps start with a large financial institution to see if by marshalling the forces of all members of the credit union movement across Canada he could consolidate that resource and, having consolidated that resource, perhaps

he could start a whole new trend in banking and interest rates. That would give credibility and trust to his objective more quickly than anything.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi):** Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by thanking the hon. member for Essex—Windsor for presenting this motion, because it provides an ideal opportunity for showing how the government lived up to its promise of regional equity and justice for all Canadians, and especially how much has been done by Conservative members in Ottawa and especially by the tireless member for Roberval, the hon. Benoît Bouchard.

When this government came to power in 1984, it saw that despite the efforts of the previous Liberal government and the considerable sums of money it had spent on regional economic expansion, serious regional disparities still existed across the country. That is why our government embarked on an in-depth analysis of regional economic needs and decided to provide a framework for meeting those needs, something which had not been done before.

This new framework approach, which was mentioned in the Speech from the Throne in the fall of 1986, was intended to correct regional imbalances and under-development, while concentrating on the most disadvantaged regions. In line with this approach, new regional development initiatives were introduced, based on the specific needs of target regions.

• (1540)

That is how the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Department of Western Economic Diversification were created while Industry, Science and Technology Canada was given the job of looking after Quebec and Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, let me explain for the information of the hon. member for Essex—Windsor how Industry, Science and Technology Canada has obviously succeeded in focusing its new economic development initiatives in the most disadvantaged areas of Quebec and Ontario by providing them too with promising opportunities.

In Quebec, on regional development, this government has developed an action program specifically aimed at achieving the goals hoped for by the hon. member for Essex—Windsor, that is job creation and lowering unem-