

## REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### ERDA AGREEMENTS—FEDERAL FUNDING

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** My question is directed to the Minister answering questions on regional development. He asked a minute ago how it would be possible to be more specific about regional development funds. I want to give him an opportunity to be more specific.

I listened with interest to the Prime Minister's speech this morning, and what he had to say about funding for ACOA and the Western Diversification Fund. He stated that the funds for those programs would be maintained. He did not mention the ERDA Agreements.

In western Canada there are 39 such agreements, and 16 of them have lapsed; in Atlantic Canada there are 46 agreements, and 24 of them have lapsed. That is different funding from what the Prime Minister spoke about this morning.

Will the Minister guarantee the people of western Canada and Atlantic Canada that the funding equivalent for those ERDA Agreements that have been lapsed will be maintained in the coming years?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, the Prime Minister clearly indicated that the funding for all the programs that the Government had put in place over the last three years will continue for a five-year period.

As a Government we have clearly committed, and we remain committed, to the idea of joint development arrangements with our provincial partners.

The question the Hon. Member is asking me about the details in terms of dollars and cents will have to await the Budget.

### SYSCO STEEL

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** I say to the Minister that I am interested in details, and the people of western and Atlantic Canada are also interested in details.

Earlier the Prime Minister, and the Minister who quoted him, did not mention the ERDA Agreements. That is what I am asking about. He mentioned a specific agency in western Canada and a specific agency in Atlantic Canada that have quite different budgets independent of the ERDA Agreements.

## Oral Questions

The Premiers in western Canada and Atlantic Canada are concerned about ERDA Agreements.

In February of this year the United States Government made a ruling in terms of the trade agreement against Sysco Steel, in part based on the specific inclusion, and I have it here for the Minister if he is yelling. The specific inclusion of the ERDA Agreements is one of the reasons these have not been renewed. That case has already been made in the United States against ERDA Agreements.

If it is not so, what action has the Government taken to re-establish the full legitimacy of the Sysco program?

**Hon. Harvie Andre (Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion and Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, I hate to repeat the arguments that were made ad nauseam during the election campaign.

Our regional development programs are not threatened by any Free Trade Agreement. Last year, next year, any particular situation can be challenged in respect of whether or not it represents a trade subsidy. The Free Trade Agreement has not changed that one bit.

This Government remains committed to joint economic development arrangements with our provincial partners. We do not necessarily mean committed to every—there may be some changes—

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Andre:** If the Hon. Member has the patience to wait three weeks he will see the Budget from my colleague, the Minister of Finance, and then he can make his judgments.

**Mr. Broadbent:** The people of Atlantic Canada and western Canada have already had imposed upon them a high interest rate policy designed for inflation in Toronto. They want guarantees that they are going to have the same money for regional development, and they want them now.

[Translation]

### REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS—GOVERNMENT POSITION

**Hon. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa):** Mr. Speaker, during the election campaign, the Prime Minister promised that regional development programs would not be affected by the Free Trade Agreement. The Americans decided otherwise. In February, they made a decision that went against our regional development programs.