Supply

the agreements to which the Minister so smugly referred. It is crucial for the long-term economic development and growth in British Columbia. At the moment the economy in the province is probably sustained only by mega-projects. In September of 1986, construction on Expo '86 will have been completed—and I want to say quite categorically, as I said in Vancouver, that I am a strong booster of Expo. I think it will add a lot to our traditions—

• (1630)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I believe Senator Jack Austin, if I can refer to our colleague in the other place, deserves a lot of the credit for putting it through, and we are going to give it all the support we can. There comes a time when every province and every country has to show itself off to advantage, and I think the trading possibilities, as we welcome millions of people from the Far East, the Pacific Rim and the west coast of the United States, will be of great advantage to the province. I happen to be the only Member of Parliament who sat here both as the Member from Montreal during Expo 1967 and the Member from Vancouver for Expo '86. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, they were and are worth-while ventures.

In September of 1986 the construction for Expo'86 will be completed. The advanced rapid transport line will be completed. The Annacis Island bridge and the Coquihalla highway will be completed. There will not be any more of those mega-projects to boost the very weak economy of the Province of British Columbia which has the second highest unemployment rate in the county. So we have a very crucial and vital year ahead of us, which is why this debate has a good deal of relevance.

What we have at the provincial level is the New Democratic-Socred split—the confrontation I have already described—and the people of British Columbia are getting tired of looking at the same old faces, the same old ideas and the same outlook of that legislature. The Members of that legislature remind me of two punch drunk boxers who are still fighting the battles of yesteryear. We need a new attitude, some new moderation and some new political voices in the Legislature of British Columbia. This confrontation is frustrating both growth and investment.

At the federal level, it is good to see, for a change, so many Conservative Members in the House.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I am talking about Hon. Members from British Columbia. The only time we ever hear from them is when they are flapping their fins as if they were trained seals behind the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney). What have we heard from these 19 Conservative Members? They have been the most invisible, anonymous and silent group of Members of Parliament who were ever elected to the House of Commons.

An Hon. Member: We are working.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I asked some high school students at the Kelowna secondary school whom they could name as their Conservative Members of Parliament, and they hadn't the faintest idea.

Some Hon. Members: Oh. oh!

Mr. Axworthy: There are 1,500 students in the school.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): Fifteen hundred students were at that meeting. It was broadcast live throughout the whole of the Okanagan Valley by two radio stations. It was the first real representation the people from the Okanagan have received for some time.

I have known the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Fraser) for a long time, Mr. Speaker. He brought in a fishery treaty on West Coast salmon, but not a single Member of Parliament saw that treaty before it was initialled. And we have deep problems in fishery. The catch is limited. With all the technology available to that industry, it could take the catch in four or five days if it went at it all at once. We need a salmon enhancement program desperately. And we have to look at reforestry because the silt which is a result of the failure to reforest is plugging our spawning grounds. But the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans brings in a treaty which no one saw before it was signed.

The Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Miss Carney) brought in her so-called oil and energy deal. She still has not settled the natural gas question which is very important to British Columbia. She also has not fulfilled the government promise of the Vancouver Island pipeline. We are very anxious to see what happens to that.

The Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Siddon) had to admit yesterday that the promise of the Conservatives to double research and development was a flat and empty piece of rhetoric. That Party is long on rhetoric, but short on solutions.

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I am glad to see those Hon. Members here, as I am sure you are, Mr. Speaker, those 19 Hon. Members. This may be the first time we have ever heard from them. Get their names. Here they are for the first time.

An Hon. Member: They are phantoms.

Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra): I think they are phantoms. What about the Prime Minister's commitment to British Columbia? He has travelled far and wide. He has been to New York—he borrowed a black tie and put on his Gucci shoes. He has been in Washington and he has been in London for a photo opportunity with the Queen. He has been to Bonn where he saved the world. But he has only made one trip to western Canada since the election. On St. Valentine's Day, February 14, he had a love-in session in Regina where not one single problem affecting western Canada was dealt with. But he has not been to British Columbia since September 4.