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with the announcement that the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency is setting up an office in the city of Saint John.

New Brunswick has 31 per cent of the region's employment and has netted 37 per cent of the \$658 million ACOA has committed between 1988 and 1990.

This should go a long way to generating a stronger working relationship between the agency and local business interests. It will ensure the region and the province will continue to benefit fully from the many programs available under the action programs.

There is no shortage of good ideas in south-western New Brunswick. By taking this action, ACOA is attempting to bring a greater focus on the special needs of the region.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Howard McCurdy (Windsor—St. Clair): Mr. Speaker, when the federal science minister appeared before the science and technology committee, he pretended that there was \$1.5 billion in new R and D money, but later revealed that this referred to sub-inflationary budgetary increases over five years.

The minister then told 7,000 recipients of NSERC grants that many of them did not deserve the grant money. Today, we learn that one employee in 15 is interested in early retirement at NRC.

In fact, if everyone who wanted to quit were allowed to go, entire sections would be wiped out. This is how demoralized Canadian scientists are. They are sick and tired of a government which is destroying their mission, their grants and their jobs.

They are sick of watching R and D expenditures fall, and they are sick of watching the erosion of NSERC, NRC and the entire federal science structure. They are insulted when a minister who is supposed to be their advocate not only defends this sorry record, but obscures the real facts about funding levels and then adds insult to injury by kicking them while they are down.

[Translation]

AGRICULTURE

Mr. Bob Kilger (Stormont—Dundas): Mr. Speaker, average farm incomes are expected to be extremely low in 1991 in this country, but this government is dragging its feet on the subject of helping farmers with their seeding programs. This is a recipe for disaster.

As far as prices are concerned, last year was a terrible one for producers of grain, oil seeds and fruits and vegetables. The result is that farmers need financial assistance to be able to seed their land.

Mr. Speaker, many producers have never faced cash flow problems of this magnitude.

As a result of government cutbacks, especially in support programs for 1991, we expect that total net farm income will be down 54 per cent. Our farmers have a right to know how the government will help them.

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INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Mr. Denis Pronovost (Saint-Maurice): Mr. Speaker, this year again, thousands of Canadians will meet to take part in demonstrations throughout the country to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, on March 21.

This day is an important one, because discrimination still exists. Despite undeniable progress, Canadians have not yet managed to create a society that is consistently respectful of cultural, linguistic and religious differences.

We all have the same basic needs. We all need understanding, respect, friendship and equal opportunities, values that are essential to the survival of this country. And that is why racism, racial discrimination and racial prejudice must disappear in Canada.

Together we can build a society that is fairer and less racist.