

Government is not prepared to bring forward its legislation. I have never heard such a bunch of hypocrisy in my life.

**Mr. McDermid:** That is nonsense.

**Mr. de Jong:** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question of my colleague. It is a question concerning a gas pipeline to Vancouver Island. I understood that this became a prominent federal election issue and the Hon. Member for Nanaimo-Alberni (Mr. Schellenberg) made some very explicit promises that such a pipeline would be built. The Conservative Party and the Province of British Columbia committed themselves to that project.

Is the Hon. Member aware of any efforts on behalf of the Government now to reach an agreement with the Province of British Columbia to build that pipeline? Does he think the people of British Columbia, particularly the people on Vancouver Island, can expect to see that pipeline built in the near future?

**Mr. Manly:** That is a very good question, Mr. Speaker. If election promises built pipelines, we would have seen that pipeline built many, many times in the past 19 years. I think it was first promised by the Socreds back in 1966. It has been promised at every election since then, and now even the Socreds have the good grace to blush when it is raised. The Hon. Member has not been in politics that long, so he does not feel that he has any obligation to blush for past promises. Certainly he made that promise. I believe that when we see the stairway to paradise, we will see the pipeline to Vancouver Island.

● (1720)

**Hon. Thomas Siddon (Minister of State for Science and Technology):** Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to participate in this debate today, notwithstanding the pessimistic language of the motion before the House. I think all Members would do their constituents greater justice if we spoke in a constructive way about the very important issues not only before the House today but before the country and for which we all have a tremendous responsibility.

I was somewhat dismayed by the partisanship and the tendency on the part of the Opposition not to be willing to concede good news when indeed there is much good news for Canadians to be thankful, even at this early stage under this new administration.

Without a more co-operative relationship being struck between the federal Government and the provincial Governments, organized labour and the private sector, we would fail to address adequately the serious economic dilemma facing the country. At the present rate of accumulation of the national deficit, our accumulated aggregate public deficit will equal our Gross National Product by 1990. At the present time it is less than 50 per cent of our Gross National Product. Notwithstanding the braying and the alarm being expressed by opposition Members, I think they realize as well as we do that we will have to take significant measures in a spirit of co-opera-

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tion if we are to restore to Canadians, in particular young Canadians, the sense of opportunity and stability which was gifted to us by our ancestors, those who went before us.

I am proud of the obvious and premeditated plan of the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) to seek a greater consensus, to sow seeds of goodwill in both official languages from one end of the country to another, as precedent to difficult decisions and important positive measures the Government could take to create a more optimistic and confident climate in the country of which we are all proud.

In the debate on this rather pessimistic motion, I hope the NDP and its cohorts to the right in the Official Opposition will recognize that since September 1984, 201,000 new jobs have been created in Canada compared with only 70,000 in the same period of time the year previous. It is a new year and there are new things happening. The bank rate has fallen two percentage points in the last six weeks. It is currently at a level of 9.9 per cent, the lowest level of the bank rate since the defeat of the Trudeau Government in 1978. Export sales have risen substantially, by nearly \$9 billion in March of this year. Already, notwithstanding the alarm being expressed with respect to promises which the Opposition would have us fulfil overnight, there is growing confidence in the country and a new spirit of optimism on the part of all Canadians.

I must indicate that public opinion polls seem to support the notion that indeed we now have a Government in office which is setting about to manage the economy, not run it. I make that distinction quite deliberately. The NDP would have us believe that Governments are the only institutions which can properly manage and run an economy, and that this could be done by merely handing out more money. That is its approach. As the Hon. Member for Kootenay West (Mr. Brisco) pointed out a while ago in the House, that approach was the hallmark of an unfortunate coalition federal Government between 1972 and 1975. When we consider what happened in British Columbia during that period, I think we see the beginnings of the economic dilemma facing Canada today. I might add that during that period the Finance Minister of Canada was the gentleman who now sits as Leader of the Official Opposition (Mr. Turner).

I do not mean to show any disrespect to any of these individuals, but these old attitudes, this living in the past, are not what Canadians want to hear these days. They want to hear of hope and optimism. Therefore, it is with some considerable degree of pride that I stand in the House today and compliment the Minister of Regional Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) for having completed and announced in the House of Commons this afternoon, where such announcements should be made, an important agreement and a conclusion to the negotiations for an economic and regional development agreement with British Columbia.

While we have some reason for concern about the current levels of unemployment in British Columbia, I have tremendous optimism that with the assistance of this agreement and its subagreement, and in co-operation with that provincial Government and other provincial Governments of all political