

budget, I might add, was committed during the period up to the end of November?

Mr. MacKay: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of elements in that question. The amount of money that was committed earlier in the mandate has allowed us in Atlantic Canada to establish a base for future economic development assistance, which is considerably higher than it was in the past and higher, incidentally, than it is with respect to WD.

I think that the money put out was done so in a constructive and timely fashion. I am the first to concede, as I did in committee, that we have not seen the results of all these applications yet. There may be some failures. In fact, I would be surprised if there were not. There was a lot of funding put out over a short period of time. I think, judging by the statistics, that it did a lot of good.

In terms of the half-billion dollars—and I am quoting by memory—I think my honourable friend would remember that by examining the blue books in committee there was something like \$380 million shown in the Estimates. The rest of the \$500 million comes from the line Departments which are also included in economic development spending. There are some of the remnants from the old IRDP program and the former DRIE program of which I think the IRDP is the principle remnant.

As far as funds that will be available for economic development assistance in subsequent years, as I have indicated to his colleague from Halifax, I think upon reflection he would realize that it would be unwise for me, if I could give him an exact figure, to do so publicly before I had a chance to get down to some serious negotiations with the provinces.

All I can tell him is that we are very much committed to continuing this form of regional economic development assistance. At the risk of sounding partisan, we have done more on this side of the House, particularly this year when the fisheries and other sectors may be needing special assistance, to provide an unprecedented level of funds which will flow into Atlantic Canada and provide stimulus where it is most needed.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, the motion before us today is that this House condemns the Government for initiating a series of policies that are causing

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unprecedented economic devastation to Atlantic Canada. In speaking to that motion, I wish to cover four different areas if time permits. First, with regard to regional development; second, unemployment insurance; third, Established Programs Financing; and, last, the Atlantic fisheries.

The question I asked the Minister just a few minutes ago dealt with regional development. He had indicated in his speech that he was all for the federal-provincial agreements. We know that as of March 31 of this year 26 of the 44 economic and regional development agreements in Atlantic Canada expired. In raising my specific question to the Minister, I asked him how he felt about the agreements that expired in his own Province of Nova Scotia and whether or not those agreements would be renewed because the indications we have been given are that some of these agreements will not be renewed.

The Minister in his reply indicated that they would have to get a hold of the provincial Government in Nova Scotia and after that they could get together and have discussions about the Economic Regional Development Agreements.

The Government of Nova Scotia is a Conservative Government. It has been in place for many, many years. The federal Government is a Conservative Government. It has been in place for many years. It is not as if suddenly, at the end of March 1989, the federal Government and the provincial Government discovered these agreements had expired. Each and every one of the provincial Governments in Atlantic Canada and across Canada and the federal Government knew that these agreements were going to expire on March 31, 1989.

Indeed, some of these agreements had expired before then. In some cases there had been extensions for one or two years in order that they would expire on March 31, 1989, by which time the federal Government would be in a position to know what it was going to do with the ERDA agreements.

Therefore, either the Minister's answer is lacking or his commitment and that of his Government is lacking. They have the Department. They have the officials. They have the resources, and there certainly is the need to have these agreements in place. Here we are two months after the March 31 expiry date, and he says: "We will have to get hold of the Buchanan Government in Nova