

Supply

of the \$1.2 billion that was originally given to western diversification is itself being stretched out from five years originally to seven years now. We are talking about far less per year in the context of western diversification. Of course, the actual expenditures which are taking place are significantly less yet.

In looking at the various ERDAs, the Economic and Regional Development Agreements, massive cuts are occurring with respect to them. There is a whole set of ERDAs which is expiring across the country. There are two in Nova Scotia. Again, there has been no commitment to renewing these. There is one in New Brunswick for industrial development with no commitment to renewal. There are three in the case of Newfoundland and no commitment to renewal. There is one in the case of P.E.I. and no commitment to renewal. There are two in the case of Ontario, one for mineral development which is important in northern Ontario and again no commitment to renewal. In the case of Quebec, there is a total of 10 of these ERDAs for hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars. They are expiring this year and again there is no commitment to renewal. Similarly with Manitoba and Alberta. In the case of British Columbia, again, there is a total of eight ERDAs, some of them massive. One is for \$300 million for instance for forest resource development which is absolutely crucial not just to British Columbia but crucial to conservation in the country. It is absolutely crucial to dealing with things like the greenhouse effect around the world and there is no commitment to renewal of this \$300 million ERDA.

In Ontario and Quebec, we see that again there is a total decrease in regional development assistance of just over \$10 million in those areas. So, as I said, there is consistency, but consistency in terms of cutbacks.

As we look across the country, it is not just the activities of these agencies and the fact that there are cutbacks which is causing the crisis in regional development. It is a fact that in the Atlantic fishery we are seeing massive destruction of opportunities for people and communities right across Atlantic Canada. In the western fisheries, we are seeing a set of developments which will severely damage, if not destroy, the processing industry right up the western B.C. coast. In northern Ontario, we see tax changes with respect to mineral development and the potential for fast write-offs which will hit mineral development in every constituency in northern Ontario.

In the western farm crisis, even Conservatives admit that real incomes in the province of Saskatchewan this year are going to be cut to a negative level in the farm sector. We are not talking about penny ante reductions and squeezes. We are talking about devastation. We are talking about crises that could wipe out western agriculture.

In the constituency of Prince Albert—Churchill River, which my colleague represents, for instance, farmers are desperate to look at the whole question of planting for this farm season. There is absolutely no commitment from this government to assist with those planting costs.

It is absolutely shameful that those kinds of inequities and inequalities should exist and that the government has not moved on them by this stage. It is as if in my community the entire auto industry were to shut down or, in your community, Mr. Speaker, the entire steel industry were to shut down. We are talking about absolutely massive devastation to which the government is not responding.

• (1320)

That is at the heart of what should be serious regional development action on the part of this government. Instead, what do we see? We see UI changes which are hurting the regions, not helping. We see VIA Rail cutbacks which the minister now defends when, if my memory does not serve me wrongly, he in fact was one of the leading proponents of saving VIA and electing a Conservative government in 1984 that would see to it that there would never be a cutback in Atlantic Canada for VIA ever again. This has taken place right across the country.

We see air deregulation which again is hitting regions. We have seen parts of northern Ontario in the past few weeks which have had their air service severely cut back. That is thanks to deregulation. It is true there are many more flights between Ottawa and Toronto and between Toronto and Montreal. But where there are not more flights is in the regions of this country.

Mr. Butland: The fares are up.

Mr. Langdon: In fact, the fares are up. The expenses people have to pay to travel are up.

So we have to take a different approach. We have to take an approach which does not try to blame the Liberals for the failures of the past, as the minister has done, and somehow imply that therefore they are re-