

Adjournment Debate

strength of Manitoba was transportation. There were agreements with Alberta which reflected that province's strength in energy. However, all we have seen is the undercutting of Manitoba's transportation sector since the election in 1984. I would like to know just what the Government has in mind.

Mr. David Kilgour (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member raised a number of questions and I would like to deal with them as quickly as I can because I have only three minutes and you will have to cut me off.

First, by 1980 Transcona will be the main shop for heavy maintenance work and equipment refurbishing in the CN system. Transcona is located within the riding presently represented by the Member and it will benefit enormously from that work. There will be many new jobs and people transferred from other parts of Canada who wish to work in that facility. That is one example of good news for the residents of Winnipeg.

● (1825)

The aerospace industry is obviously of concern to the Member. There are three major aerospace companies in Manitoba which represent about 5 per cent of the total sales of the aerospace industry of Canada and 5 per cent of the employment of the industry.

As one example of what we have done for Manitobans and Winnipeggers, Boeing now has the contract to do the wing ferry construction for the Boeing 747s. I understand that creates about 250 jobs, which we hope will be permanent. That is one of the good results of allowing de Havilland to purchase Boeing. I wonder whether the Member has taken a position with respect to that purchase. I seem to recall that his Party was vehemently opposed to that. If that had not happened, those 250 jobs in Winnipeg would probably not exist today.

I was born in Winnipeg and lived there for a quarter of a century and have very strong feelings about Winnipeg, as has the Member. I understand that Manitoba now has an unemployment rate of about 6.9 per cent, the lowest of all the four western provinces.

Mr. Blaikie: It's an NDP Government.

Mr. Kilgour: Would the Member tell us how it makes any sense for the NDP Government of Manitoba to have a payroll tax? If there is any better disincentive for having employment in a province, it seems to me that the NDP Government tax would be at the top of any intelligent person's list. I do not know how that Government can talk about creating jobs when it does everything it can to make it harder for people to create jobs.

We have helped to create an atmosphere in which 75,000 new jobs have been created on the Prairies since the election. We have reinstated VIA Rail which is important to Winnipeg and westerners generally. We recently declared that the Yellowhead route would be part of the national trans-Canada

system. We committed \$1 billion to the hard-pressed grain farmers. We announced the red meat stabilization plan. There was a major commitment in the Throne Speech to diversify the economy of western Canada.

I will conclude on the very important issue of preserving the 2 million to 2.5 million Canadian jobs which now depend on our trade with the United States. We are doing everything we can to preserve access to that market against the daily opposition of the Member's Party. Approximately 200,000 western Canadian jobs now depend on that market. If the Member's leader continues to do things which will make it harder to maintain a continued access to that market, it can only result in harm to a great many men, women and children in our part of the country.

IMMIGRATION—AWARDING OF MINISTERIAL SPECIAL ENTRY PERMIT. (B) REQUEST THAT MINISTER REVOKE DECISION

Mr. Sergio Marchi (York West): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise this evening to review a series of three questions which I asked the Minister of State for Immigration (Mr. Weiner) during the sittings of November 4, 5 and 6. They were with regard to two questionable and very frustrating judgment calls made by the Minister to grant two ministerial permits to two different individuals. One individual, who had a criminal record of over 20 convictions, obtained a ministerial permit from the same Minister to remain in Canada as well as a recommendation that this individual be granted landed immigrant status. Another decision which came to light involved a Hungarian immigrant who was known to have given to the Hungarian Secret Police secret and politically damaging information on Canadians with ties in Hungary.

The most frustrating aspect with regard to immigration policies and programs in this country is the fact that Canadians cannot sponsor loved ones and relatives from abroad to have them join families in Canada. This is despite the fact that under Liberal Governments, family reunification was the cornerstone of our immigration policy.

● (1830)

With the announcement of the 1987 levels, we see that the Conservative Government has lowered the threshold for family sponsorship and family reunification to some 30 per cent. They were considerably higher under Liberal Governments. Second, if they are successful, it usually takes years.

It was no coincidence that there was such outrage and frustration expressed by Canadians across the country when we learned that an individual with a record of over 20 criminal convictions was not only accepted to the country and received a special ministerial permit to allow that person to remain in Canada, but that the Minister had the temerity to recommend him to the Government and Cabinet for special landed immigrant status.

That is shocking because there are thousands upon thousands of legitimate and meritorious individuals who wish to come to this country, as my family and many others did, to