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Under the guise of negotiations the Tories are dismantling regional development programs that mean so much to the communities in our region. However, the Tories are only just beginning.

In the Dartmouth-Halifax region the cancellation of the At and East grain subsidy may toss 295 individuals out of work. The withdrawal of VIA Rail service will cost another 322 jobs. CN is also putting more maintenance workers in the unemployment lines.

The Government has done enough in its assault on Atlantic Canada. I call upon it now to halt this assault and stop the battering which has taken place over the last three weeks.

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ATLANTIC CANADA OPPORTUNITIES AGENCY**EFFECT ON ATLANTIC CANADIAN ECONOMY**

Mr. Peter L. McCreath (South Shore): Mr. Speaker, no regional development program over the years has even approached the success to date of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. Furthermore, the kind of assistance available through ACOA is exactly the sort of shot in the arm that the Atlantic economy needs at a time when our fishery is headed for a downturn.

This fiscal year the Government of Canada will spend close to \$500 million through ACOA. This assistance will greatly benefit the Atlantic economy. However, with the current downturn in our groundfishery we greatly need the diversification and job creation opportunities that ACOA can provide.

The Government has lived up to its ACOA funding commitment, and it should be applauded for doing so. However, right now, it is not enough. I urge the Government to consider making an additional sum of \$300 million to \$400 million available to ACOA to assist Atlantic Canada through its current economic crisis.

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TRANSPORT**CLEAN-UP OF OIL SPILL—PAYMENT OF VOLUNTEERS**

Mr. Raymond Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I wish to call to the attention of the House and in particular the Minister of Transport (Mr. Bou-

chard) that volunteers who helped clean up the West Coast oil spill have still not been paid for out-of-pocket costs, loss of wages, destruction of equipment, and personal things they purchased to assist in the clean-up of the oil spill.

The Minister of Transport and the Government have an obligation to compensate those individuals for their out-of-pocket costs. The Government, through the Minister of Transport, should be paying those costs and then collectively on their behalf suing the Sous brothers for the oil spill which took place on the West Coast.

I and others urge that the Minister of Transport and the Government call a public inquiry into that spill to determine more effective ways of dealing with it. On behalf of all those who are out of pocket it should launch a civil action. It should pay those individuals and launch a civil action to compensate them for the efforts they made on behalf of all Canadians to clean up those beaches.

Mr. Lindsay Armstrong is here today to present the Minister of Transport with his personal bills for that clean-up. Hopefully, that transaction will be completed.

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UNITED NATIONS**CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD—PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE UNBORN**

Mr. Gus Mitges (Bruce—Grey): Mr. Speaker, the new United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is approaching the ratification process. The new convention will replace the 1959 declaration. The reference to legal protection of the unborn child has been deleted from the preamble and extends protection to children only after birth.

Save The Children Canada is presently engaged in a postcard campaign seeking Canada's ratification of the convention.

I urge all my colleagues in the House and the people of Canada to do everything possible to ensure that Canada does not ratify this document which so clearly excludes pre-born children from legal protection.

Without the right to birth, the other rights contained in the convention have no value.