

*Oral Questions***REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

WESTERN CANADA—PROPOSED FORMATION OF NEW POLITICAL PARTY

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Deputy Prime Minister who will remember only too well the latter days of the Trudeau regime when several western separatist parties sprang up in response to what they felt was a lack of representation from western Canada. Of course we know the number of western representatives who were sent to Ottawa in 1984 to be part of the government benches. We also know that this past weekend delegates from the western Provinces met in Vancouver and decided to strike a new federal political party because they felt their representation was held to be inappropriate. Will the Deputy Prime Minister explain why his Conservative Government has failed to make western Canadians feel they are equal and true partners in Canada?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I think we all noticed as well that there was a spattering of Liberals and New Democrats at the conference to which he referred.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): And an NDP, MLA.

Mr. Mazankowski: Including an NDP, MLA.

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Former NDP.

Mr. Mazankowski: A former NDP, MLA. I am not sure what Mr. Roberts is, whether he is a disenchanted Liberal or one trying to get back into the fold.

Mr. Crosbie: He is a chanted Liberal.

Mr. Mazankowski: A number of steps have been taken by this Government to renew and in fact strengthen the partnership between western Canada and the federal Government on the economic front and the political front, and I think the record of achievements clearly speaks for itself—

Mr. Broadbent: Yes, that is the problem.

Mr. Mazankowski: —the evidence of ERDAs, the Western Accord, farm stabilization programs, drought assistance, grain and oilseeds assistance, trade, transportation, the Meech Lake Accord, western diversification, and I could go on and on and on.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION IN WESTERN PROVINCES

Mr. Nelson A. Riis (Kamloops—Shuswap): Mr. Speaker, my supplementary is also addressed to the Deputy Prime Minister. If the Government has been so generous to western Canada, I wonder if the Deputy Prime Minister could explain why, between September, 1984, and March of 1986, the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion spent over 70

per cent of its funds in central Canada and a paltry 12 per cent in all four western provinces combined? Can he not understand that it is that kind of figure which makes western Canadians feel like second-class citizens?

Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council): Mr. Speaker, I think what western Canadians appreciate is the dismantling of the NEP and FIRA, the 350 per cent increase in western agricultural support, amendments to the Transportation Act—

Mr. Benjamin: No, that is no good, either.

Mr. Mazankowski: —free trade—

Mr. Broadbent: No, no.

Mr. Mazankowski: A whole host of things. These are the kinds of things which go to the fundamental problems which are irritating western Canada. If the New Democrats and Liberals got off their butts and co-operated in seeing this legislation advance to its fruition, there would be a lot more happiness out in western Canada.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF BULGARIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL FOR INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Speaker: I wish to draw the Members' attention to the presence in the gallery today of Mr. Georgi Yordanov, Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Culture for Bulgaria, and Mr. Vladimir Zhivkov, Deputy Chairman of the Council for Intellectual Development of Bulgaria.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION OF INDIA

Mr. Speaker: I wish also to bring to the attention of Members the presence in the gallery today of Mr. Shir M. Arunachalam, the Minister of Industrial Expansion of India.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

PRESENCE IN GALLERY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA MINISTER OF MUNICIPALITIES

Mr. Speaker: I wish also to bring to the Members' attention the presence in the gallery today of the Honourable Rita Johnston, the Minister of Municipalities, of British Columbia.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!