

when, between 1982 and 1984, it ever once recognized northern Ontario in the manner in which this government has.

The member commented on FEDNOR and the tourism side of it. The hon. member comes from the area of Kenora—Rainy River which is involved heavily in tourism. The member's area received \$1.8 million last year and \$2.9 million previous to that from the FEDNOR program, but yet he criticizes it. I see where an individual with a machinery company in Thunder Bay states that FEDNOR was of great assistance in supporting him to diversify his operations.

I think this government has recognized the needs and the requirements of northern Ontario. Can he tell this House, in a sincere way, what the policies of the Liberal Party are with regard to diversification in the employment side of Community Futures and the diversification in FEDNOR? During 20 years in government the Liberal party never recognized northern Ontario. Have they all of a sudden seen the light and realized that there is a northern Ontario?

**Mr. Nault:** Madam Speaker, I am very pleased that the member opposite has had enough nerve to stand up and ask me a question today, after the speech he gave the other night, to which I listened with great interest. Unfortunately, his speech was made under the strictures of closure and I had no opportunity to ask him a question.

I am really pleased that he defended the unemployment insurance cuts to his region when he knows that every person who loses unemployment insurance benefits in northern Ontario will lose an average of 13 weeks. He told me and Canadians in northern Ontario that that is good, that that is an improvement.

He talked about tourism. Let us talk about how exceptional this government is at twisting words around as it relates to understanding what is going on. Here is an article entitled "Tourism suspends support of the GST". This does not come from me, this comes from the tourism industry. This member should know, if he has been listening and watching what is happening, that we in northern Ontario have a big tourist industry.

This article says that another 7 per cent added to the cost of our tourism services will encourage many more

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Canadians to travel in the U.S. and will discourage foreign visitors. I do not think the government fully appreciates the impact of the GST on the tourist industry and its 60,000 mostly small businesses. Tourism is a trade in visitors and, in fact, is Canada's second leading export industry. We are already running at a \$3 billion deficit and this will only make it worse.

The article goes on to say that the association is currently developing a new strategic plan to be more responsive to needs and to provide a stronger voice on Parliament Hill.

There is a perfect example of what is taking place, as it relates to the government opposite. The government does not even know what it is doing to the tourism industry in Canada. The article goes on to say that one has to wonder how business travel is going to help the tourist outfitter in northern Ontario or the attraction operator in Edmonton or Cape Breton. What about the resort sector?

I say scrap the GST, because otherwise northern Ontario will be hurt. That member is the last Tory in northern Ontario. We have noticed that there are no Tories left in northern Ontario. Mr. Trudeau is getting to be a more pleasant man than he ever was before because of what has happened with this government.

**Mr. Dennis Mills (Broadview—Greenwood):** Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank my colleague for a passionate, caring speech, not only about his constituency but all the disadvantaged regions of this country.

I would like to ask him a very specific question. We have now seen that the government across the floor has a design, and the design is to retreat from national governance. It is the greatest retreat from national governance that we have seen in this century.

Professor Harold T. Wilson has recently published a book called *Retreat from Governance*. He makes the point, after listing all the Conservative cuts—cuts to VIA Rail, unemployment insurance and the programs in the regions—that Canada is doing this at precisely a time when it has become increasingly necessary for a central public authority to govern affirmatively in the interests of international competitiveness as well as national sovereignty.