

**Mr. Axworthy:** The Member's facts are wrong. He does not know what he is talking about.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** He sure does.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Under the National Energy Program there was a three-way split. Alberta received the biggest cut. Let us talk about who was taking royalties off at a time when oil prices were over \$35 a barrel.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Now we hear the real Liberal line.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Also the provinces were attempting to share the rents that were being demanded.

• (1700)

**Mr. Mazankowski:** You are looking pretty silly now.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Are they arguing that they will not recapture any of the incredible rent increases for the people of Alberta? Will it all be given to the corporations? Is that what they are arguing? Is the former Minister of Transport saying that he would turn down the money which is now being invested in western grain transportation?

**Mr. Mazankowski:** You are waffling.

**Mr. Axworthy:** When he was Minister of Transport, as mouthy as he is, he did not cancel the program. He did not give the money back at that time. He was the Minister of Transport. He could have said: "Hey, this is no good, folks; I will cancel the program and give it back". He had two and a half years in which to give it back. What did he do? He kept the program in place.

**Mr. Mazankowski:** Answer the question.

**Mr. Axworthy:** They should not tell us what we were up to; they should tell us what they are up to. We turned that money around for the economic development of western Canada. He had a chance to do something about it if he did not like it. He did not do it, so he should quit copping out.

**Mr. Blaikie:** Mr. Speaker, my comment relates to the speech of the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry (Mr. Axworthy). It is also relevant to what the Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger) had to say. It concerns the attitude of the Government, not so much toward western Canada as a whole. Obviously from our point of view that is in question as well. However, I am referring to its attitude particularly in respect of Winnipeg. Within the Progressive Conservative caucus there is a tendency to equate the interests of Alberta with the interests of western Canada. Since the 1984 election, the result for Winnipeg has been that we have suffered unfairly in our relationship with central Canada, the latest example being the awarding of the CF-18 contract to Canadair when it should have been awarded to Bristol Aerospace in Winnipeg. Also the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry will remember only too well when we had

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to stand side by side in the summer of 1985 with other Manitoba politicians, who were mostly New Democrats, to prevent the disappearance of the CN prairie regional headquarters in Winnipeg, to prevent everything in the Prairies from being amalgamated and situated in Edmonton.

Winnipeg is being hit in two different directions. The first is in a national sense in that it is suffering from the politics of Manitoba not having enough clout, or whatever the case may be, and thus losing contracts which should have gone to that city. Also, within the mind-set of the Progressive Conservative Party, Winnipeg is losing out to Edmonton, often for the sake of the kinds of crumbs for which the Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin seems ready to settle, in the bowing and scraping attitude of Alberta and Manitoba Tory Members of Parliament toward whoever is calling the shots in the Tory caucus. I invite the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—Fort Garry to comment on these points.

**Mr. Axworthy:** Mr. Speaker, I could not have said it better myself. The Conservatives have failed to realize that at the end of 1983-84 we put in place the IRDA program which allowed development of economic blueprints in each province. It was negotiated with business, labour and the provincial Government of each province. It was to provide for a co-operative form of economic development across the country and to ensure specialization for regions so that they could do things better and provide certain advantages. That was to be complemented by development in other provinces. It was negotiated carefully with every provincial Government. All things for which the Deputy Prime Minister took credit were initiated under the IRDA program.

That has been abandoned. There is no regional development program. The Conservative Government is going on the question, as the Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin (Mr. Schellenberger) said, of who can muscle whom or who can out-hustle whom in these areas. That is what it is doing rather than trying to provide for a concept of regional development, worked out in co-operation with the private sector and provincial Government of each region, and using federal funds to do it. What do the Conservatives do? They cut back in research and development. They cut back investments in research centres. They cut back the transfer of technology. They have a new research and development program which discriminates against those areas with large corporations that could contribute large amounts of private capital. They do not have a regional development program. They cut back DRIE itself. As a result, the capacity of the federal Government to act as an investor and to work co-operatively has been dismantled, and it comes down to the political shenanigans which the Hon. Member for Wetaskiwin is advocating.

**Hon. Don Mazankowski (Deputy Prime Minister and President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, I welcome the opportunity to participate in this debate. It certainly provides us with an opportunity to explore some of the serious difficulties affecting western Canada. However, I must say that it