

average, we put \$30,000 into each farm. We have an attitude that is positive.

What about the National Energy Program? What did that do for western Canada? What did that do for regional development? Down the tubes, pal. That is exactly what happened. There was absolutely no support for western Canada when the National Energy Program was in place. That hurt us and hurt us bad. I do not see anybody from Alberta or western Canada, Saskatchewan included, considering the transfer of money that went from western Canada into central Canada as a result of the National Energy Program.

We have also taken a look at financial institutions. We were concerned about them. There were times when there were problems and the government responded. There were some problems in the banking industry in western Canada and the government put in approximately \$1 billion to save the pensions and the savings accounts of many people in western Canada.

We have taken a look at the transportation industry. We have deregulated the transportation industry and it is now wide open. I know what the effects of that are on the small communities of western Canada. Now the farmer is not paying top dollar to get his fertilizer delivered. He is paying an economical rate so he can put it on the field.

• (1720)

A personal friend of mine has been very involved with the regulation. He has expanded his company. He is booming. He is making a living because the government's has an attitude that small business should look after itself.

We can talk about free trade and what free trade has done for regional development. Once again, I come from a small area in western Canada and I like speaking about western Canada because I think it is a fine place. The three biggest employers in my area are exporters. The fact that we have free trade makes their products more competitive in the international market, in particular in the American market.

I know that the people who work in these industries in my communities are more than impressed with the effects of free trade. The workers are not being laid off any more. They are not working for three or four months and off for a month and back for three or four months.

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They are out there full time and they are working hard. They are making money and at the end of the day they have money in their pockets. They can take their children on holidays in the summer time. They are doing well. I think that is all because the government has decided to do something about regional economic development.

Let us talk about unemployment in 1984 and 1989. Let us start off with British Columbia. I think it is important that these numbers get on the record. In British Columbia in 1984 unemployment was at 14.9 per cent. In 1988 it was 8.3 per cent. In Alberta it was 11.7 per cent in 1984 and it was down to 7 per cent in 1988. Saskatchewan had 8.8 per cent unemployment in 1984 and it was down to 7.2 per cent in 1988. Manitoba's unemployment rate dropped from 9 per cent to 7.2 per cent. I think it is important that you take note of those figures.

We can talk about job creation in western Canada from 1984 up until September, 1989. We have created 404,000 jobs. Eighty per cent of those are permanent jobs. Over 60 per cent of those jobs are held by women. We do have an attitude of trying to do something in rural Manitoba, rural Saskatchewan, rural Alberta and rural B.C. We want those people working. British Columbia had 246,000 new jobs. Obviously we must be doing something on this side of the House to be creating jobs.

All the approaches of past governments obviously led us some place that we did not want to be. What did FRED do for us? What did ARDA do for us? GDAs, REDAs, ERDAs, IRDPs, where did they all go? They were a bunch of fixed programs that had no flexibility to react to short term needs. They were tied in. You had to spend that money no matter how. Away it goes. We just spend that money because that is the way of it. There was absolutely no flexibility; spend, spend, spend. That is exactly what these programs did.

How many of these programs did nothing but support civil servants in the provincial government for working and not actually accomplishing anything? We did not give the private sector the opportunity to work. We did not give the private sector the opportunity to take that money and go out and do something.

At least we had enough sense in this government to bring on western diversification, the opportunity for businesses in western Canada, with something new and innovative, to get out in the marketplace and put people