

*Oral Questions*

Public Works Canada. Public Works handles them in a manner with which the Hon. Member is acquainted. In terms of other lands and buildings and so on, I am not aware that the Post Office has surplus lands. Any surplus lands that it might have will be dealt with in a way consistent with government policy.

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**SUPPLY AND SERVICES**

## LEVEL OF PURCHASING IN WESTERN CANADA

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Supply and Services. Last week in western Canada he announced that his Department would be increasing the level of purchasing to 12.4 per cent in western Canada. Why did the Minister set a level below the 1984 level of 14.2 per cent? Why is he actually decreasing the percentage of money that will be spent in western Canada?

**Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, as always the Hon. Member has his facts wrong. What we announced last week in Regina, which was followed up with a specific announcement in Calgary a day later with my colleague, the Minister responsible for western diversification, was that we would increase, over current purchases from the West, western procurement on a yearly basis by some 17 per cent, with an ultimate goal of bringing in equality of opportunity to all regions.

We will be able to do this for two reasons. First, we have put a greater emphasis on Canadian purchasing. In fact, last year we reduced offshore purchases by 26.6 per cent, that is, foreign purchases, thereby giving more Canadian businesses an opportunity to sell to the Government of Canada.

When—not if—the free trade deal comes into effect, there will be an additional access of up to \$4 billion of opportunities for Canadian businesses. We will be able to increase the share for western Canada without taking away from Ontario and Quebec.

## EXPENDITURES IN WESTERN CANADA

**Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill):** Mr. Speaker, the Minister seems to want to ignore the fact that western Canada was getting a higher percentage four years ago than it is now. I want to know why the target is even less than the despicable record of the Liberals. The Tories then were saying that the Liberals were not spending enough in western Canada. Now that target is even less.

**Hon. Otto Jelinek (Minister of Supply and Services):** Mr. Speaker, as I have just said in the House and in the West, something which has been agreed to by my provincial counterparts in a recent federal-provincial Minister's conference on procurement in Quebec City, the West had been ignored for 20

years by the Liberal administration. There is no doubt about it. Thus there was a lot of catching up to do.

We have already increased procurement in the West by some 25 per cent in the last couple of years. Now, with the western procurement initiatives which were announced last week, we are increasing that even further and working toward reaching an equitable proportion of purchases in all regions of Canada.

I suggest that the Hon. Member get his facts straight. I invite him to come to my office, to give him a briefing and to let him know exactly what is happening in this area.

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**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

## EASTERN ONTARIO—REQUEST FOR INDUSTRIAL AND TOURISM INCENTIVE PROGRAM

**Mr. Len Hopkins (Renfrew—Nipissing—Pembroke):** Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Minister for Regional Industrial Expansion I direct my question to the Acting Prime Minister.

Last week I pointed out in this House that as of June 30 the Conservative Government has dropped the industrial incentive regional development programs in eastern Ontario. I asked the Minister when he would be bringing in a new industrial and tourism incentive program for this part of the province. He chose to insult the people of eastern Ontario by quoting provincial-wide unemployment figures and by bragging about government economic policies. He ignored the high pockets of unemployment that exist in eastern Ontario. He ignored the tens of millions of dollars that the Government has cut out of the eastern part of the Province of Ontario.

Will the Minister give the House a commitment today that the Government will take the unemployment problems and the economic problems of eastern Ontario seriously and bring in an industrial and tourism incentive program?

**Hon. Frank Oberle (Minister of State (Science and Technology)):** Mr. Speaker, as everyone here would know, this Government does not need any lessons from our predecessors in terms of regional incentives that are geared to build upon the strengths of the various regions of the country and that are successful in terms of the creation of permanent jobs rather than part-time jobs, programs that are less geared to digging holes and filling them up again, but which stimulate industrial growth and opportunities in the various regions of the country.

The region about which the Hon. Member speaks has not been ignored, nor will it be ignored. Under this new arrangement there has been developed the Western Diversification Fund, ACOA, the eastern opportunities fund, a fund for northern Québec, and other regions of the country.