

Columbia encourage tourism in that province? Does it encourage people to visit Expo '86? Is this the type of thing Members of Parliament should be doing for their own provinces?

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, of course not. I think it is time that we in this House, to a Member, got supportive of Expo '86. When I was in the Far East, I was very pleased to hear people from Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and other areas indicate that they were looking forward to coming to Expo '86; some of them were looking forward to having pavilions at that fine exposition. As far as I am concerned, this exposition is not just for British Columbia, it is a Canadian showcase and it is time we got behind it and made it a success.

Mr. Riis: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make one statement and follow it with a quick question. So that there is no misunderstanding regarding Expo '86. I did not in any way say that it was not an appropriate forum for developing a tourist infrastructure. The point I was making was that an awful lot of money was being spent and all indications are that it will be a losing proposition financially.

Mr. St. Germain: You wanted to bet on it.

Mr. Riis: I said it will not be a financial success. That was my wager.

Mr. St. Germain: And I'll take it.

Mr. Blenkarn: Do you want that?

Mr. Riis: It is not what I hope will happen, it is what every analyst has indicated will happen. I am simply reflecting what those who have analysed the situation have said.

The Minister knew that he would be embarrassed today if he did not come up with a negotiated settlement. I am pleased to see that he has used this opportunity to say that an agreement has been signed. Would the Minister be prepared to indicate whether or not he will table this agreement? When will we know the precise details of it? When and where will they be made available? Literally thousands of people from that province have been waiting for months and months with pent up ambition, waiting to go ahead. When and where will the details of the agreement be made available so that we may release this pent up ambition?

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, as the Hon. Member probably knows, the ERDA agreement has already been made public. It was signed on November 23. What we have agreed to with the Province of British Columbia is on the over-all funding that will take place under the ERDA, being \$525 million. The first agreement to be signed will likely be signed by my colleague, the Minister of State for Forestry (Mr. Merrithew). That is an agreement for \$300 million which of course will be made public when it is signed.

Mr. Riis: It hasn't been signed yet.

Supply

Mr. Stevens: As I said, we have agreed on the over-all funding. We have agreed on which agreements will receive what amount of funding from the \$525 million.

Mr. Riis: When will the signing take place?

Mr. Stevens: The Hon. Member had better ask my colleague, the Minister of State for Forestry. I would presume—

Mr. Riis: I'll ask you, you're responsible.

Mr. Stevens: I would presume that he will sign it as soon as his counterpart in British Columbia is available, at a time convenient to both of them.

Mr. Merrithew: Very soon.

Mr. Riis: You said in October.

Mr. Merrithew: Very soon.

Mr. Stevens: The agreement is there.

Mr. Angus: Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on the question put by my colleague, the Hon. Member for Kamloops-Shuswap (Mr. Riis). Am I correct in understanding that there is no detail in the announcement? Is it my understanding that there are some dollar figures but that there is nothing that will allow work to begin tomorrow in the Province of British Columbia to implement this agreement? Are we still some time away from having the Minister of State for Forestry (Mr. Merrithew) sign the forestry agreement which would then allow for planting, road construction and the like to begin?

Mr. Stevens: Mr. Speaker, there goes another one of the socialists demonstrating that he either does not understand or does not realize how the ERDA process works. Under the ERDA process there are subagreements, but before the subagreements are signed there is an agreement on over-all funding between the two jurisdictions. The forestry agreement is ready to be signed. It is not a question of any delay in the implementation. The only thing that was holding it up was the agreement on the over-all funding, and we now have that agreement. We know that \$300 million will be devoted to the forestry agreement so that can be signed forthwith. The other agreements will be signed very, very quickly.

Right Hon. John N. Turner (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, this is the first time we have had an opportunity to deal specifically with issues affecting British Columbia. It is not often that the Parliament of Canada is used as a forum in which reflections are cast on the economic leadership provided by a provincial Government. I am not sure that it is wholly advisable as a practice to use the floor of the House of Commons to impinge upon the activities of a legislature of a sovereign province. To a certain extent, this motion deals with other jurisdictions, but it has been put. I feel that it may simply be theatrics on the part of members of the New Democratic Party.