

Supply

out of NATO, and that is the New Democratic Party of Canada.

The Hon. Member opposite concluded his remarks in this debate by making the assertion that we have not done anything for tourism in western Canada. The first tourism sub-agreement ever signed with Alberta was one signed after we became the Government, involving an amount of \$56 million.

It may be that the Hon. Member for Skeena does not know this, but we also committed \$90 million to the second arm of the Trans-Canada Highway, the Yellowhead route. That should even benefit Skeena. But he closed his mind to that kind of information.

In the agricultural sector alone, 437 initiatives have been launched by this Government, to a total value of \$5.88 billion. That is in the space of two years. I challenge the Hon. Member for Skeena or the Hon. Member for Vancouver—Kingsway to find any period in the history of Canada when that amount of money has flowed from the central Government of Canada to the regions, in this case to western Canada in large part—and they can index the money in any way they wish.

Under the Western Grain Stabilization Act, we have had record payments totalling \$859 million. We had to pass two amendments to the Act in order to make those payments possible. This spring, there was \$705 million allocated to interim payments; there was \$210 million allocated to a drought assistance program. In addition to all of that, we introduced the \$500,000 capital gains tax exemption.

Is it not interesting, Mr. Speaker, that while we were applauded all across the farming regions of Canada, the New Democratic Party, which pretends to be the great saviour of western Canada, came out in opposition to the \$500,000 capital gains exemption, an exemption that is largely utilized by farmers and small business persons in Canada?

We have brought about a \$100 million to \$150 million savings on freight rate rollbacks. Had the formula put in place by the Liberal Government continued unchanged—and I know that conditions have changed—grain freight rates would be well over \$11 a tonne today. As things stand, the freight rate barely touches \$7 a tonne.

The fact of the matter is that the Hon. Member for Skeena has nothing to stand on at all when he tries to pretend that nothing is being done for western Canada.

In respect of regional development, we have had \$370 million go to the western provinces. Three out of every four of the Alberta-listed companies have won federal government contracts, to a value of some \$233 million: \$50 million for the Yellowhead Highway upgrade; \$50 million for agricultural processing; \$40 million for northern development in the northern regions of the Prairies; \$23 million for a federal forestry agreement with the provinces; and \$22 million for the Lethbridge Animal Diseases Laboratory.

The federal Government also contributed 70 per cent of the \$90 million cost of the Lloydminster upgrader research project.

The Hon. Member for Skeena has said this Government has not done anything. Well, if 70 per cent of \$90 million is nothing, by golly, Sir, I want lots of nothing, because that kind of “nothing” sure is welcome in western Canada.

That is the kind of thing that this kind of tomfoolery that we are having in the House today—

Mr. McMillan: Watch it!

Mr. Malone: Mr. Speaker, I stand corrected by the Hon. Member for Hillsborough, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. McMillan).

As the Minister of the Environment, the Hon. Member looks after national parks, and I know that he will do a good job in that respect insofar as Alberta is concerned. He will help us improve our environment and help us in enhancing our national parks. In doing all of that, I can tell you that Tom is not foolery; he is very wise.

I want to thank the NDP, Mr. Speaker, for having brought this silly motion before the House. It allows us to put on the record during the course of this debate what this Government has done for western Canada, and what it has done has been very, very significant.

It also provides us with an opportunity to remind the citizens of this country that it was the NDP and the Liberals who closed the door to economic development in western Canada, and to bring to the attention of Canadians what it would be like to live under the oppressive policies of a New Democratic Government.

Let me end on a point that I consider to be critical. There has been too much talk about doom and gloom in the west. In fact, the talk of gloom and doom is bringing about some actual doom and gloom.

It is true, Mr. Speaker, that there are persons who are resisting investing in western Canada because of the perception that things are bad, when in fact there is much that warrants optimism.

If we look at the statistics, the truth of the matter is that drilling activity has increased. Over-all activity in the energy sector has significantly increased. The notion that agriculture is in the doldrums is overstated. The fact of the matter is, over-all income in agriculture has increased by more than 100 per cent since this Government took office. What has happened is that the grain sector has become greatly depressed.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, that all of this talk of gloom and doom makes it more difficult for entrepreneurs and businesses in western Canada to attract capital. Even some members of the Alberta Government will admit that. Bearing that in mind, I ask people to act responsibly.