before the Government put the boots to Summerside in closing down its base and throwing thousands out of work in that part of Prince Edward Island.

In effect, the Government's true agenda is to change the way Canadians think about themselves. It is turning its back on those people it has been elected to represent, the people in the regions of this country, the people in northern Ontario, eastern Ontario, the people in Atlantic Canada. They are the people who want to become full economic partners in this great country.

In closing, I support my hon. colleague's motion to increase funding in Atlantic Canada, but before funding is increased we must recover what the Government has already taken. We must stop the erosion of caring and compassion that the Government has exhibited over the past four years. We in Atlantic Canada have a right to be allowed the opportunity to become full partners in this great nation. Regional development funding, continued at historic levels, is the only vehicle for us to retain that equity.

Mr. Brian L. Gardiner (Prince George—Bulkley Valley): Madam Speaker, in the few minutes remaining tonight I want to make some general comments on the very important motion we are dealing with tonight.

The House will also know that we are debating another important piece of legislation before the House in terms of its impact on regional development. It is Bill C-3, the legislation to create the Ministry of Industry, Science and Technology. At that time I said that it would have been nice to be debating legislation to create the forestry Department, which we have not yet seen from the Government despite its many pledges.

The motion today, moved by the Member from our Party, the Hon. Member for Essex—Windsor (Mr. Langdon), reads:

> That, in the opinion of this House, the Government should consider the advisability of increasing spending for regional development, focusing this spending on regions with a demonstrated need for assistance and ensuring that such spending is dependent on investment planning and job creation that may not otherwise take place.

That is an important motion today, in light of the chaotic and ridiculous performance we saw by the Government last week in the presentation of its Budget and the implications in that Budget and the Estimates.

The Estimates that were tabled on Friday gave us an idea of some of the Government's specific spending plans. Some of the concerns that we have raised about what will happen with our regional development plans and some of the specific Departments within Government, such as forestry, are coming true with the tabling of the Estimates and the Budget.

The concerns that I have raised in the House are that what will be created are two different kinds of Ministers. There is a perfect example of that now in western Canada. We have been calling for the renewal of the forestry agreements. Some six FERDAs in other provinces across the country have expired. No official negotiation had taken place and we wondered why. The information we received from the Minister of State for Forests (Mr. Oberle) was that a new economic policy framework was being designed.

What is that new economic policy framework? I believe it will be a reference of all federal agencies in western Canada and Atlantic Canada, through those agencies, to the point where there will be two different kinds of Ministers. In western Canada there is the Minister responsible for western diversification. In the case of my critic responsibility there is the Minister of State for Forests. He is still a junior Minister because we know, in light of the Budget and the spending Estimates, that the Minister of Forests must go to the Minister responsible for western diversification to get funds for those forestry agreements.

The perfect evidence is contained in news releases, which all Members receive. In my Province of British Columbia, in the forest industry in any case, we will all get to know the Minister of Western Economic Diversification because he will basically become the Minister of Forests. I know that our sector of the industry is not desirable of that.

Those are some of the concerns that have been raised on this side of the House. I believe the motion of the Member for Essex—Windsor points that out clearly. Certainly there will be more debate as consideration of both Bill C-3 and the Budget continues.