

*Supply*

than any of the major industrialized nations which are also having difficult times.

For example, the primary metals production industry is operating at 61 per cent of capacity, the transportation equipment industry at 59 per cent, the wood and forest products industry at 51 per cent, the electrical industry at only 67 per cent, the furniture industry at 58 per cent and the mining industry at approximately 57 per cent of capacity.

The after-tax profits of Canadian corporations has fallen some 60 per cent over the last year and business and corporate bankruptcies have virtually doubled since 1980. In fact, in British Columbia the number of business and corporate bankruptcies has doubled in the last 12 months. These are all evidence of a serious economic dilemma which this nation is contending with today. This ultimately translates into economic hardship and human suffering, as reflected in the motion before the House this afternoon.

As the Hon. Member for Rosedale (Mr. Crombie) suggested, we feel in general terms there are four important initiatives that need to be taken. First, we need to forge a new bond of trust and spirit of co-operation among business, labour and government. Second, we must encourage job-creating investment. The Minister of State for Economic Development did not say anything about what the Government is going to do to reverse the absolute destruction which that Government has caused of the investment climate in Canada.

Third, we must focus on the problems of productivity and the decline of Canada's international competitive advantage which has been traditional for this country, to the point where now out of the 24 members of the OECD nations, we are rated as the country with the lowest productivity improvement record. We need a means of dealing with this question of declining productivity. We need goals and we need tools.

I was very disappointed by the rhetoric of the Minister of State for Economic Development. He talked about consultation, programs and appointments to boards, but did not tell us where we were headed. He has no sense of appreciation that this country, with all of its potential, does not present to the Canadian people the leadership, goals, objectives and climate in which individuals can have confidence and invest in this country as a reflection of that confidence.

Canada's need to restore its access to world markets is at the heart of our economic dilemma. Before the end of this century, some two-thirds of the world's population will be clamouring for all the goods, services and comforts which Canadians have come to take for granted. Two-thirds of the world's population do without all those things that we benefit from.

We have to ask ourselves why we are not tapping into that opportunity. Why have Canadians taken an isolationist attitude that we can live to provide only the needs and services of Canadians? Why do we isolate ourselves economically by closing our borders and raising tariff barriers even higher, disregarding the fact that there is a tremendous opportunity to be harnessed which will produce employment for all Canadians?

While I appreciate the current emphasis on what is called high technology and electronics sectors, people around the

world do not eat chips. They can eat potato chips which we can produce in great abundance. They certainly could use wood chips to produce paper, but not silicone electronic chips. It is an error of judgment on the part of those in powerful positions to place all of our eggs in one basket and put so much emphasis on the so-called high technology "silicone valley" mentality. That may be good for Ottawa and the immediate area, but it does not take advantage of the resources that we possess in great abundance, resources that people of the world need.

The people of the world, regardless of what self-styled experts in the House and Government may think, need food, clothing and shelter, which is made from agricultural commodities, petro-chemicals, forest products and the fishery. We in this nation and the Government in particular are totally neglecting these important sectors, totally disregarding the opportunity. We must not merely be content to continue to strip off our natural resources and export them, but to develop an industrial plan with specific goals to increase and upgrade the value added that we get out of those resources. That, Mr. Speaker, translates into jobs, and the cornerstone of realizing that opportunity is our science and technology policy. I would like to come back to that in a moment because that policy, which the Minister talks about in vague terms in terms of percentage of GNP, has to be much more comprehensive and dedicated to national objectives than anything this Government has produced in the last 14 years.

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We have to ask ourselves, in looking at our mining industry, why it is that virtually every sector of the mining industry is in a severe slump, losing millions upon millions of dollars, with the iron ore shutdown at Schefferville, for example, the cutbacks in Labrador City and in the mines of Northern Ontario, or the major lay-offs in two north shore mines of the Quebec Cartier Mining Company. Falconbridge was shut down for most of last year, and the International Nickel Company is still shut down in Sudbury, with 10,000 mine workers laid off. We know why that industry is shut down, Mr. Speaker. It is because in 1950 Canada was one of the two major world producers of nickel, and with the help of the Canadian Government through its export development initiatives and CIDA initiatives, we now have 30 separate mining centres around the world mining nickel, and all but two or three of them are outside of Canada. We have cut off our own potential to continue to provide a viable income and well-being for the people of the Sudbury area because this Government has paid no attention to the decline of our international productivity and to the dangers of a growing surplus of world producers in that sector.

We have the case of the Cyprus Anvil Mining Company which has for years produced lead and zinc, shipped it by the White Pass & Yukon Railway to Japan where it goes into the Japanese automobiles. We have now a Government which has promised, since last October 5, to provide some means of overcoming the mismanagement of that company, after having