

refused and is still refusing to face up to the economic realities that exist in Canada. Our government cannot go burying its head in the sand and offering employment tax credits when it should be delving deeper into problems in order to remedy them.

We need a revitalized housing construction industry to stimulate lumber sales and employment. Mr. Speaker, and Bill C-19 will not achieve this. The mortgage interest deductibility provision proposed by this party would have done a great deal toward it.

● (1650)

Our economy is suffering because of the shortsightedness of members of the government. Mariner Homes Limited is a corporate citizen of Penticton in the Okanagan valley. This is a community city which the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan) knows well. We have met with him there and I am sure he will admit it is a lovely community. It is a real shock to a community like that when a manufacturing complex, such as Mariner Homes, closes its doors, as was the case a few days ago. Mariner Homes put \$3 million annually into the local economy of Penticton. Of that, \$1.5 million was spent in wages and the other \$1.5 million was used in the purchase of goods and services. How does the Employment Tax Credit Act respond to the situation of those closed doors? It will take two million hours of subsidized wage contributions just to replace the void created by the closing of this manufacturing complex in Penticton.

There has been nothing offered of substance and encouragement to those entrepreneurs and creative people who wish to use their inventive skills for the benefit of Canada, particularly in the expanded field of energy. There is nothing new proposed that is equivalent to the energy bank proposal which was contained in the budget of the hon. member for St. John's West.

I think of a man in Merritt, Mr. Lange, who has proceeded with a new concept in a wind-energized electric generator package called "The Onion". Mr. Lange's invention represents the type of activity that not only offers Canada energy advantage, but can provide permanent employment opportunities to many thousands of Canadians in both the development and production activity that will result.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. King: What has happened to farmers in my riding?

Mr. Whelan: They are doing good.

Mr. King: The hon. member is right. It is not because of federal action but because the provincial government has underwritten their operating cost of production. You cannot take any pride in that, sir.

Mr. Whelan: They took my program and put it into force. You cannot take pride either.

Employment Tax Credit Act

Mr. King: I take considerable pride in that policy. I worked for the minister of agriculture in the provincial government for some 12 years. I was involved in the negotiations of the terms of that package which the minister speaks of with such skepticism.

What is happening to farmers in my riding? Federal action and federal policies would put them, like other industries in the area, in extreme jeopardy. It is only because of provincial initiative in the form of financial underwriting of the cost of production that our farmers survive. Land at \$12,000 an acre, tractors that cost \$17,000 versus \$1,700 25 years ago when I started farming, tree fruit packing lines that cost \$2 million to instal, are examples of high costs. The B.C. farmers would much prefer that the government address directly the basic ills of the land rather than apply efforts such as we debate today, efforts which fail to attack the problems which have been defined, redefined and redefined again. Look at what the briefs from the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, the Canadian Cattlemen's Association and the BCFGGA ask. Farmers are aware of the facts of life. It is unfortunate there are not more farmers sitting opposite.

Perhaps it would be asking too much of a government with a record of irresponsible, reckless actions and inappropriate policies to throw off that cloak and do what is right for our nation. One can only hope that somewhere on the other side of the House there exists that germ of spirit that seeks to correct the disease rather than soothe the symptom. Until that happens and as long as this government exists, Canadians will be forced to accept short-term solutions, such as those contained in the Employment Tax Credit Act. One could more heartily endorse this extension of the provision of the act if there were a parallel effort to address our underlying problems. Unfortunately, this government shows no such resolve. In this circumstance it is safe to suggest that this program, and others of similar intent, will be with us for some time to come.

Mr. Neil Young (Beaches): Mr. Speaker, this is the first time I have had the opportunity of speaking in this House since the election of last February, and I want to take the opportunity of thanking the people in my riding of Beaches for sending me here in the first place. I would like to say a few words about one of the great men I follow, Mr. Andrew Brewin, who served my constituency, which was then the constituency of Greenwood, for 18 years.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Young: While I certainly have a great deal of respect for him, I am sure that while he was in this House he earned the respect of other members.

My immediate predecessor, Mr. Richardson, was not in the House long enough to make his own mark. However, I know Mr. Richardson rather well and even though we disagree politically and philosophically, in my view he is an honest and decent man. If I can represent my constituency as well as my two predecessors did, then I will be happy to be in this place.