

That is, any Canadian who dares to feel disgruntled about the state of the economy, about unemployment or rising prices and the state of our industries, is a bitcher. Anyone who dares to criticize this sacrosanct government, this sanguine and satisfied minister from Shawinigan, is a bitcher. There is a lot to bitch about, Mr. Speaker. The minister devoted 20 or 25 minutes of his 30-minute speech to Quebec. I thought this was a debate on our national economy, not just Quebec. It was a pump-priming speech, a backwoods speech that dealt with Quebec, for the most part, and not with the rest of the country. The minister is not concerned enough to answer this resolution which deals with Canada as a whole, not just the province of Quebec.

The minister said that when he succeeded the Secretary of State for External Affairs as Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, he came across a file that had not been dealt with. I thought it was going to be the Featherbed file, but it was the Canadair file. A decision had not been made, and the minister criticized his predecessor, now the Secretary of State for External Affairs, and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Gillespie) for not making a decision on Canadair when they held that portfolio. They did not have the intelligence, the nerve, the guts nor the gumption of the minister, he implies. When he saw the file, he dealt with it. If he dealt with it then, his predecessors left him a shambles to deal with—but it is very unfair of him to criticize his colleagues in that manner.

Let me now deal with the income tax amendments which are before the House. A budget was brought down in March, but the government did not introduce income tax amendments until three or four weeks ago. The House has not spent three or four weeks debating those income tax amendments. They do not relate only to the budget of March, 1977, but also to the mini-budget that the minister was afraid to bring in properly. Instead, he introduced it in the Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne in the middle of October. The minister is stretching the truth. He is a flexible Minister of Finance—flexible with the truth. There have not been four weeks of discussion on the income tax measures, but they will get a lot of discussion. In any event the income tax legislation is not the solution to the problems of Canada. That is recognized by the Canadian people.

In concluding his speech, the minister made a final, telling comment. He said he was delighted, positively overjoyed, frantic in his feverish delight because the Canadian people are now recognizing the folly of getting too much out of the economy. Again it is the fault of the Canadian people, not the fault of the federal government. He did not say that the government has now recognized the folly of trying to get too much out of the economy. Apparently it is not the government with its huge, swollen deficits—not the government that is asking us to approve their borrowing of \$9 billion; rather, it is the poor Canadian people who are trying to get too much out of the economy. That epitomizes the policy of this government. We are in this trouble because the government has attempted to get too much out of the economy and has not left enough for

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the private sector to give it some incentive. I can leave the remnants of the minister's speech, Mr. Speaker, and pass to a few remarks of my own dealing with the resolution before the House.

Before getting into more general matters, I should like to deal with the question of imports. I discussed this last night with the Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Whelan). The government of France has passed a law or regulation to prevent the importation of seal pelts into France. Apparently, Brigitte Bardot is such a powerful figure in France that in the twinkling of an eye—and I will not say what else she might have twinkled—they are going to bar seal pelts from France. If this government has any guts or gumption, Mr. Speaker, they will bar the importation of French champagne, because they brutalize the grapes by pounding them with their feet when they make it. It does not matter what the reason is, we should not allow the French to stop the importation of our seal pelts without taking action. I am referring to the French in France. I do not want anyone to think I am referring to the French Canadians of Quebec. If the French in France stop the importation of our seal pelts, let us stop importing their champagne. I am sure we can make our own in the Niagara peninsula that is just as good. In any event, I never liked that bubbly stuff.

We know that Canadian industry is entering an extremely difficult period. Canadian manufacturers and Canadian industry are nervous about what is going to happen in Geneva because they have no confidence in this government. I do not know if they will maintain this opinion through 1978 because the Prime Minister and his ministers will be chucking them under the chin, giving them a pat on the back and rubbing them behind the ears for the next few months to get them past the election, hoping they will forget how they were treated in the last few years. Canadian industry is worried about what is happening at Geneva because they know the negotiations are in the hands of professional free traders. Although they have put in briefs to the Canadian Trade and Tariffs Committee, they know they have been treated casually. The people doing the negotiations believe in free trade and are not worried about what will happen to the Canadian manufacturing sector. They know the negotiators are civil servants who say that we must have adjustments and must rationalize.

I laughed when I saw hon. members opposite pound the tables when they heard of the announcement on footwear and leatherwear that is to be made on Thursday. They had better be vigilant, because the people representing us at Geneva are free traders. The manufacturing sector in this country is not getting any feedback from the government. We have a nervous Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Horner) at Geneva. This is no time to have a nervous minister. A report in the *Globe and Mail* of November 25 begins as follows:

It was a nervous Jack Horner who opened a two-day seminar—

We do not want a "nervous Nellie" riding up to the EEC with a lot of apologies. Further on, the article reports:

On footwear, Mr. Davignon volunteered to try to think of ways in which Canada could attack excessive imports from the Far East without attacking traditional European imports—