

Alleged Failure to Reduce Unemployment

I could perhaps make very briefly another suggestion. It concerns all Canadians, who should buy Canadian. It would already be a way of revitalizing the Canadian economy. I have already acquired the habit, Mr. Speaker, of looking where the products which pass through my hands are manufactured and I am astonished to note how many products sold in Canada are manufactured in Hong Kong, Japan, Formosa or Czechoslovakia. I feel that there is too much indifference among a great number of Canadians who buy those products manufactured elsewhere, when we could find the same products here. When the fact is mentioned, we are told: "Yes, but they are less expensive." It is true that they are less expensive but afterwards we have to pay for increasing unemployment, social welfare for the unemployed, because in certain sectors our economy is threatened by some sort of dumping from abroad.

I would like to make another suggestion, Mr. Speaker, for the economic development of the country, to prevent our firms—

[English]

Mr. Broadbent: Would the hon. member permit a question?

Mr. Mongrain: Yes, with pleasure.

Mr. Broadbent: Would the member also suggest that all those countries to whom we sell goods adopt the same policy of buying only in their country?

[Translation]

Mr. Mongrain: My honourable colleague is evidently a real perfectionist. He would like to force this government to improve all the other governments in the world. I know that international trade must exist and that charity begins at home. Surely, there are cases where we must import but we have in Canada industries which manufacture products that are just as good. Canadians should remember that charity begins at home.

This seems fundamental to me. We are not here to support other countries unless they are underdeveloped.

Here is my last suggestion, Mr. Speaker. I think that in order to keep Canadian industry strong, union leaders should be convinced to accept a kind of truce in those endless disputes that cause the ruin of some businesses,

[Mr. Mongrain.]

push employers towards automation and consequently staff reductions, and in certain cases force businesses to close down.

In my region, a business is in danger of closing on account of a strike that I find unjustified and unjustifiable and that has been going on for months.

So, I think we should ask the union leaders who are conscious of their responsibilities to try and bring a respite in labour-management disputes to give all levels of government concerned the time they need to enforce the measures they consider essential to improve the economy and reduce regional disparities.

Mr. Speaker, I can assure the minister of the co-operation of 85 mayors in my region, who are members of the Mauricie Mayors Conference. They are looking forward to his complete legislative program and they will be in a position then to come and discuss with him how it meets the needs of the region I represent.

Mr. Roland Godin (Portneuf): Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the hon. member who has just sat down. Since the hon. member for Trois-Rivières (Mr. Mongrain) is all in favour of Canadians buying Canadian products, can he promise to vote against bill C-102, that is a bill providing for larger imports of pharmaceutical products?

Mr. Mongrain: I have not seen anything in the bill, Mr. Speaker, that says we must have larger imports of drugs. I think this is a gratuitous assumption on the part of my hon. friend.

[English]

Mr. Deputy Speaker: The hon. member for Oshawa-Whitby.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. J. Edward Broadbent (Oshawa-Whitby): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and one hon. member opposite.

An hon. Member: A lot more than on that side.

Mr. Broadbent: Mr. Speaker, I should like to speak specifically to the amendment to the motion which is before the house. This amendment asserts that the government has slowed down public investment and has pursued fiscal and monetary policies deliberately designed to increase unemployment. Other spokesmen for the New Democratic party