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into enormous debt, is it any wonder that our inflation and therefore our interest rates are as high as they are? Is it any wonder that our dollar is the poor cousin among world currencies? Given that we have shunned research and development geared to producing new and better goods and services for world markets in favour of relying on exports of our unprocessed raw materials, is it any wonder that the Japanese, the Germans, the French, and many others, are beating the pants off us in international trade? Is it any wonder that nearly 40 per cent of our auto workers are laid off as one country alone, Japan, threatens to capture 30 per cent or more of our automobile market?

The Canadian government, Mr. Speaker, has instilled in Canadians a false sense of security by insulating the country from soaring oil prices with billion dollar energy price subsidies instead of investing that money to make Canada self-sufficient. Is it any wonder that eleventh-hour efforts to launch energy megaprojects are being wrecked on the shoals of the so-called National Energy Program?

The government blames international forces for the state of the Canadian economy, but we, more than any other country, have contributed to those same forces; for example, by being the world's worst managers of non-renewable energy resources. Over the past four years our industrial productivity has been rising at the second slowest rate among major industrialized nations. Unquestionably a major contributor to our poor productivity is a pathetic research and development performance. The government is content to do as little as possible to foster economic prosperity while spending as much as possible on advertising to manipulate the public into thinking it is doing much more than it is.

The youth of Canada know better, Mr. Speaker; when times are tough, they know; they are the hardest hit by economic recession, indeed depression. When employers cut back because of high interest rates, or whatever, they generally stop hiring students or other young people before they lay off people already on the job. They also tend to lay off their newer, which is to say younger, employees before they lay off those with seniority.

Where do we begin to bring about economic recovery, Mr. Speaker? The first step is to realize that the problem, therefore the solution, is to be found in Canada, not in some mythical world economy. Some of the steps required, for example greater investment in research and development, are implicitly called for in my previous remarks. For the Atlantic provinces, I would hope such a thrust would include the establishment of a fourth veterinary college for Canada, to be located in that region, it is to be hoped in my own province. An institution of that kind is urgently needed to buttress the fragile base of the agricultural and fisheries industries in the region.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say that, beyond specific measures of that variety, Canada must get its economic house in order. The government's high interest rate policy is a terribly weak hand to play, if monetarism happens to be your suit, when not complemented by a wise government spending

package. I am not calling for reduced expenditures necessarily, but rather for expenditures that constitute a solid investment in our country's future, which will also help to create those much needed jobs for today's youth. We need much more spending on the economic infrastructure of the country and much less on government self-promotion, on the aggrandizement of certain bureaucratic empires, and on government takeovers of industries which have the effect of not creating wealth but of scaring it away.

• (1750)

I think the young people of this country recognize that no government can solve the country's problems alone. But this government more than any other in the past, is responsible for many of the problems with which we are burdened. It is for that reason that our young people, along with their parents, will be looking forward to the day soon when they can cast their ballots for a new deal for themselves and for the country as a whole.

Mr. Brian Tobin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I must say at the outset that this debate today reminds me a great deal of the emergency debate we had on the National Energy Program some time ago. It was cited as being a great emergency by members opposite in the Progressive Conservative Party, and when I rose in that debate to speak in this House there were about as many members present at that time from the Conservative Party as there are today. I count just three.

Mr. Thacker: We know you have nothing to say.

Mr. Taylor: You have only eight over there out of 150.

Mr. Tobin: I hope that puts things in perspective for the public. I would remind hon. members opposite that there were just two members to listen to their own representative speak during this debate.

Mr. Taylor: You have only eight members.

Mr. Tobin: I think that puts in perspective the political motivation of members opposite who make these resolutions and call for these debates but then have only two members present to listen to their own spokesman on the topic.

Mr. Taylor: There are eight on your side and there are eight on our side. Get your numbers right.

Mr. Tobin: I heard the hon. member for Hillsborough (Mr. McMillan) speak today. I listened very carefully to the series of words and phrases he used referring to Canadians all the way from being the world's worst, to being pathetic, to having a lack of initiative. He went on to discuss manipulation and to suggest that the only thing this government could do was to manipulate through advertising. What I did not hear, sadly, and what I was waiting to hear with great passionate interest because I, too, am alarmed at youth unemployment in this country were some concrete suggestions from members opposite. It is not enough to score political points and to have