

willing to negotiate production agreements in key economic sectors such as machinery and transportation. We have to negotiate production agreements with multinational corporations. We have to say, "okay, if you want a piece of our market"—and that is why they are here, they want a piece of our market—"then you have to do a fair share of the manufacturing in Canada, you have to provide Canada with a fair share of the jobs."

Mr. de Jong: That would be a good start.

Mr. Keeper: If they are not willing to do that, then we have to be willing to use some lever in order to convince them that we are serious in these negotiations, that we are prepared to look at measures such as emergency surcharges, look at measures including subsidies and various kinds of tax measures in order to convince the multinationals that we are serious about providing employment for Canada and that when we enter into negotiations for jobs for Canadians, we mean it.

Mr. de Jong: And make them for the autoworkers.

Mr. Keeper: Exactly. The second point of this New Employment Option relates to the export market and it points out that countries like France and West Germany provide all sorts of assistance for their export industries and that we need to do a similar kind of thing here in Canada. We have to underwrite the risks faced by our exporters and, we have to provide a comprehensive coverage of production, credit, accident, commercial, exchange rate, inflation and market development risks. In other words, we have to use the government to put our export industries on a competitive footing with the rest of the industrial world. The third point in this new employment option relates to tax cuts. We want to provide an immediate tax cut for low and middle-income Canadians.

• (1650)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Blaker): Order, please. I understand that the hon. member may wish to continue, but his time has expired. I would have to seek, on his behalf, the unanimous consent of the House to permit him to continue for a moment or two. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Keeper: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will wind up very quickly. The third measure in this employment package relates to tax cuts. The fourth measure relates to housing. The fifth relates to interest rates. I will not go into the details of these measures now because my time has run out.

Quite simply, I wanted to point out that rather than adopting these sort of practical proposals and putting them into action, what is happening in Canada is that more and more Canadians are on the welfare rolls. In fact, today there have been estimates that 250,000 of those Canadians on the welfare rolls are, in fact, employable Canadians. What we have in Canada today is a policy of putting workers on welfare. What we need is a policy for putting workers back to work. We must get the government to start working on the economy so

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Canadians can get back to work and earn a decent living. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. John Evans (Ottawa Centre): Mr. Speaker, it was very interesting listening to the hon. member for Winnipeg-St. James (Mr. Keeper) speaking on the economy and what government must do in order to create conditions for a fast growing and highly productive economy. However, I think the hon. member must realize, as all of us must to a great extent, that this does not depend entirely on the government. The government cannot make the economy work by snapping its fingers or by saying that it should work. It requires co-operation from all the players in the economic system. It takes co-operation from labour, from the business community and it certainly takes co-operation from governments.

In some cases in the past, government policies at the federal and provincial level have not been as effective as we would have liked them to be in promoting growth and development. Governments have recognized that fact and have attempted to modify policies in order to try to improve them.

For example, the Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Roberts) indicated earlier that we realize that research and development in Canada is below what we would like to see it, below what other nations have achieved and below where we think it should be. Indeed, the government has brought forward policies to try to improve the situation and increase the amount of research and development. There have been many initiatives taken recently to try to improve research and development.

Since I am from Ottawa I know for a fact that those policies are in place and have been of assistance and are, indeed, creating an environment in which research and development can grow much faster than it has in the past. Although we do not necessarily like the term, people from outside of Ottawa have called it "silicone valley north", referring to the Ottawa Valley with its high technology industry which has grown from virtually nothing. It started out of the Bell Northern research labs and the Bell Canada research labs which were located here. People who worked in those labs spun out of that industry and developed their own companies like Mitel, Gandalf, Nabu and other companies.

Mr. de Jong: What about the west?

Mr. Evans: They have developed in the west. There are Bell Northern labs and there is other high technology research and development and production happening in Saskatoon. It is happening in New Brunswick now with Mitel which has just built a new plant in a high unemployment region. We are seeing growth and development in the high technology industry and government policies are indeed assisting. Telidon is a good example as well as Telesat, the Canadarm, the space program and all kinds of initiatives being taken by the government to build for the industries of the future.

What we are hearing today is a paranoid fear of the future and a fear for the status quo, for the here and now. If all we can do in the House is attempt to find ways to protect the