This is not constructive. The people of Canada do not want an opposition acting that way. They want an opposition to have alternatives and ideas. This is missing in this motion and it is also what is missing so often from our hon. friends opposite.

This government has done a lot of substantive things. Even if the opposition does not agree with these things, I would like to see it put forward alternatives that were just as constructive as what we have done. Instead we just get: "Do not do that, do not do that and do not do that". There are never any constructive alternatives.

Look at what we have done in terms of fisheries. We have the minister of fisheries sitting here. No government has been more generous with the fishery or more willing to make tough decisions with the fishery than this government. We have the Minister of Finance just a couple of seats down. Canadians have the lowest interest rates and the lowest inflation in decades. We have a growth that is the fastest—or close to the fastest—growing economy in the industrialized world. All of this has been created by this government through its policies.

We know about deregulation. It is complained about in the opposition motion. In fact, deregulation has liberated various parts of the Canadian economy and made it more competitive. Downsizing the Public Service has helped in a way because we have been able to remove from the public payroll over 90,000 Canadians. A number of them are now working in the private sector or working in privatized Crown corporations. All of these were constructive things that this government did. What is the opposition's alternative? We never hear it.

When I look at the future economy for Canada, the high-tech reality that is facing us, this government is doing a whole host of things through IRAP, the TOP program, the technology assessment programs and through a host of technology diffusion strategies that we have been announcing. We will be announcing more in the future in order to make this country of ours more high-tech and more technologically comfortable. Those are programs that this government has put forward which are moving well.

We have also done a series of things on the framework side in terms of tax reform and a new, liberalized trade environment. We have created over 1,600 small businesses through our aboriginal programs that members from both sides of the House support. We have aboriginals now who are much more entrepreneurial and who want to create their own businesses. This government put that program in place. It gets little credit for it but this government has done that.

I want to thank members of all sides of the House for the Small Businesses Loans Act which passed in this House two weeks ago.

• (1700)

This bill will be very important for businesses in this country, especially small and medium-sized businesses. This will increase the guarantee to 90 per cent. Therefore the financial institution is only exposed for 10 per cent of the risk. We have increased the commission a bit so the financial institutions will use it. We have also limited the personal guarantee that the financial institutions can ask for when they give this loan.

This is dramatic. According to the banks we are going to have close to one billion dollars worth of lending done because of this act that only costs us $30 or $40 million to accomplish. We have provisioned $30 or $40 million in the budget in the Small Businesses Loans Act. It is going to lever about a billion dollars worth of activity. That is remarkable.

It is a little different from the NDP government in Ontario that is spending $1 billion to create 10,000 jobs directly. In fact, what we are doing is spending $40 million to create one billion dollars worth of activity through the financial institutions.

I think that is a better way to go. I think that is a more prudent use of the taxpayers' money.

We have no reflection from the opposition of how it would do any of these things better. That is the role of the opposition. It is to be constructive and have some constructive proposals of its own.

As for the trade agreement, I have my views on the NAFTA that are maybe a little different than those of some other members of the House because I come from southern Ontario and I have seen the companies that want to take advantage of the NAFTA.

I want to speak to that just for a minute. Three years ago I met with a group of Canadian exporters who had the following complaints about exporting to Mexico. It was quite a meeting. I will never forget that afternoon.