

The Budget—Mr. Minaker

If we subtract that figure it comes to \$28 billion in accumulated deficits incurred while we have been the Government. If one takes away that \$22 billion of debt charges for which we accepted responsibility to pay on the outstanding debt, we are talking about \$28 billion of accumulated debt that is there, if one wants to accuse this Government of it. That amounts to approximately \$7 billion a year.

I wish to quote from an article entitled "The debt we bear" printed in the *Globe and Mail* today.

If Ottawa had no accumulated debt, Ottawa would have no budgetary deficit. In fact, the Main Estimates published Tuesday confirm there would be \$3.1-billion surplus in 1988-89 if only we faced no bill for past borrowing.

I think that proves my point that \$88 billion of the deficit that has been accumulated while we have been office is for the debt created by the former Liberal Government.

• (1130)

I should like to look at what would be the alternatives if we did not take the approach of trying to get the private sector involved, trying to get free trade, trying to expand our markets, and so on. What has the Opposition offered as an alternative? I guess a Liberal Government would tear up the free trade agreement. That is what the Liberals have said, and that if they did not have the numbers they would form a coalition with the NDP. We know what the New Democrats would do with free trade. They would outlaw it as well.

Free trade means a lot to those of us in Winnipeg and elsewhere in western Canada. In fact, the Opposition forgets that the youth of the country will probably benefit most from free trade. As technology advances, they will be prepared to take these high priced jobs. Not only that, but in my riding of Winnipeg—St. James we have a company called Macdon Industries which manufactures swathers. Basically the farm machinery industry is a free trade market. The majority of its products are sold to the United States. Some 80 per cent of its products go to the United States, and it employs some 200 plus people. This is an example of what free trade means to us in western Canada. The youth are looking forward to it. They want the three million plus jobs which will exist because we will still be trading with the United States.

Speaking about youth, I should like to indicate the results of our policies to encourage the private sector to invest in Canada again. This is what it has meant to the youth in terms of employment. The youth unemployment rate has fallen from 18.3 per cent to 12.7 per cent since September, 1984. I think it is worth repeating. It has fallen by 5.6 per cent, from 18.3 per cent to 12.7 per cent. In comparison, the youth unemployment rate rose by 5.4 per cent, from 12.9 per cent to 18.9 per cent, during the term of the last Liberal Government.

Free trade means more jobs to us in western Canada, particularly those of us in Manitoba where we export hydro energy and pork products, for example, to the United States. Some seven out of every ten hogs raised in Manitoba are exported to the United States. It is big business to Manitoba.

These are the things that have been protected and even expanded. Our oilseed producers will now have a market in the United States. They are encouraged. If one talks with the agricultural people, one finds out that they are very happy with the free trade agreement. The marketing boards have been protected.

The alternative of the Opposition would be to throw it out and go back to the old system of watching the United States knocking off one, one hundred, or whatever, of the three million jobs that are directly or indirectly related to free trade.

What would the Opposition do about defence? We know what the NDP would do about it. It would get out of NORAD. The Air Command Centre is in my riding of Winnipeg—St. James. It employs almost 700 people directly in Winnipeg. It is part of the NORAD system. What would the New Democrats do? Would they say, "We will ignore the United States?" The United States is part of the Early Warning System. Would they buy all the AWAC bombers to fly over Canada to protect it? What would they do with the Air Command Centre? Would they transfer it to Oshawa because of their regional development policies? Obviously the Leader of the New Democratic Party supports and recognizes regional development as being basically in the centre of Canada right now. I imagine that he is all for it, because he does not mind when they invest billions of dollars in Oshawa and GM Motors and so on? Would they continue development? What would they do with the frigates that we will build in the Maritimes?

Mr. Cassidy: Who is in power?

Mr. Minaker: We know the Hon. Member from Ottawa Centre would move them out of there. These are the alternatives, and I think the people of Canada recognize them. They want to have another chance to keep the economy growing.

Mr. Cassidy: That is why you are third right now.

Mr. Minaker: That is why they are supporting what we are doing financially.

Mr. Orlikow: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask several questions of the Hon. Member for Winnipeg—St. James (Mr. Minaker). First, he talked about a farm machinery company in Winnipeg which will benefit from free trade. Does he not realize that we have had free trade in farm machinery for years and that it has not helped Massey-Ferguson in Brantford?

He also talked about a company which is into computers. I should like him to comment on the representations which were made by Mr. Loewen, the Chairman of Comcheq, a very successful computer company in Winnipeg, which heads the Canadian Association of Independent Companies operating computer companies. He has made several representations. He appeared before the parliamentary committee and explained why the free trade agreement for the computer industry, which is so involved in the service sector of the economy, would be a disaster.