

Economic Development

● (1620)

It is not for lack of a timber resource. They are shipping raw logs across the border, largely pulp logs, and now they have been faced with intermittent lay-offs in the last couple of months. Apparently all they are going to be doing is chipping logs and sending them across the line to feed the Georgia Pacific empire. Maybe it is too late for the minister to get performance guarantees from that company. I do not know if anything can be done now but that is a typical example, Mr. Speaker.

Let me point out one other thing that happened at Salmo, Mr. Speaker. Louisiana Pacific made two applications. The first was rejected because FIRA said there was no tangible benefit to Canada. The owners at that time, Idaho Forest Industries, laid off one of the two shifts that were left in the sawmill. They had already laid off the planers. The company came back to FIRA claiming that Louisiana Pacific said that if they got FIRA approval there would be a tangible benefit to Canada because they would hire the workers back. So FIRA approved the application, Mr. Speaker. That is the kind of game they play—so shallow that children in kindergarten could see through it.

Hon. Herb Gray (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I very much welcome the opportunity this motion gives me to inform the House of some of the efforts and achievements of the new Liberal government in developing Canada's economic potential and specifically in fulfilling the commitment the government made in the Speech from the Throne to develop economic policies that will provide jobs, spur growth, improve regional balance and promote Canadian ownership of the economy.

Within the short space of four months this new Liberal government has demonstrated to the Canadian people both a strong willingness and an ability to act on the problems and opportunities that current economic conditions have confronted us with in all regions of the country. Individual industrial development opportunities have received top priority from the government, which has acted to ensure that the exploitation of those opportunities will result in maximum benefits for Canadians.

Just one example of these positive initiatives is the industrial offsets program. It is a central feature of the new fighter aircraft package and will bring enhanced economic activity as well as a large measure of specific industrial development, worth over \$3 billion, to the country as a whole and in every one of our regions. This is a program which can create as many as 24,000 direct and indirect new jobs all across Canada.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, in the coming years that program of the federal government will have substantial impact on Canadian technology. The purchase of the new fighter aircraft for the Canadian armed forces was indeed calculated to offer our leading industries such as electronics and aeronautics close to 60 per cent of the over-all economic spin-offs valued at \$3 billion. As a result it will foster our advanced technology and

allow it to meet foreign competition more effectively in the eighties.

[*English*]

Another example is this federal government's move to guarantee \$200 million in loans by private sector financial institutions to Chrysler Canada Limited beginning in 1982. As a result, we have obtained a commitment from Chrysler that it will invest approximately \$1 billion in this country over the next five years in addition to commitments on jobs, production, sourcing of parts and other important matters, all of which will be very beneficial to Canada as the restructuring of this major motor vehicle manufacturer is under way to meet the requirements of the 1980s and beyond.

Our agreement with Chrysler has helped preserve or eventually to restore some 40,000 jobs directly, 14,000 and more at Chrysler itself, 16,000 employed by dealers all across Canada, 10,000 jobs in supplier firms in all parts of Canada and, as well, at least three or four times as many indirect jobs—100,000 and more.

That is not something the Conservatives want to see. They continue to criticize and to indicate that this should not be done. The Conservatives are saying to the Chrysler dealers and their employees—16,000 of them all across Canada in each and every corner of this country—that they want to see them out of work. The Conservatives say they want those—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Gray:—small Canadian businesses to close down. They are saying they want the employees and the 2,200 suppliers—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Gray:—selling \$500 million worth of goods to Chrysler—

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Some hon. Members: Shame.

Mr. Gray: No amount of hooting and hollering now will take away the reality that the hon. member for Calgary Centre (Mr. Andre) has put on the record.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Jelinek: I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. Is the hon. member for Halton (Mr. Jelinek) seeking the floor on a point of order?

Mr. Jelinek: Yes, Mr. Speaker. The minister is making accusations that he should either withdraw or back up.

An hon. Member: That is not a point of order.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. The House could not hear what went on before. I asked for order in the