

further support to regional development, only the platitude that "we must start by building on our regional strength", a fact that we in this Party recognized some time ago.

On July 15, 1982 I had the opportunity of addressing a Kinsmen function in my riding. My theme was productivity. As a backgrounder to my speaking notes, I used the copies of speech notes given across this country by the then President of the Iron Ore Company of Canada, now the Hon. Member for Central Nova (Mr. Mulroney). To quote from my text:

In improving productivity, Canadians may again be able to compete with Japan's and Germany's markets. Obviously, the onus is not solely on the private sector. Productivity depends on the role played by all segments of society, business, labour and governments at all levels. Government actions play an important role in productivity. They are responsible for setting the economic climate in which the economy operates. They must accept a role in designing programs to increase productivity such as they do in Japan.

The speech notes of the Hon. Member for Central Nova which I referred to went even further than that and suggested the creation of a national productivity commission.

The Government has now chosen in the Throne Speech to heed the remarks made at that time, and this shows that someone in the Prime Minister's office must have been listening. Waiting for the Hon. Member for Central Nova to be elected before using his and my ideas in a Throne Speech is a tribute to him, whether intended or not. Not doing more than just following through on our proposals is not a tribute to the Government.

Mr. Evans: Mr. Speaker, it was interesting to listen to the Hon. Member's speech and note some of the points he made, especially where he referred to his Leader, the former President of Iron Ore Company, talking about productivity and industrial development. Would the Hon. Member care to recount for us the history of that company in both Labrador City and Schefferville?

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. The Chair has some misgivings about the nature and content of the question as it does not relate to the comments made by the Hon. Member who has just spoken. The other concern the Chair would express, which I do with some reservation, is that I simply want to caution Members that we should not unduly involve ourselves in the private lives of our colleagues in the House. That is not a matter for consideration in this forum. In any case, I have expressed some concern and I will allow the Hon. Member to reply.

Mr. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, I cannot relate the entire history of the Hon. Member for Central Nova's dealing with the Iron Ore Company in Schefferville.

Mr. Mazankowski: He was a lot more compassionate than you guys were with AECL.

Mr. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): I want to tell the Hon. Member for Ottawa Centre (Mr. Evans) that I get some of your brochures. I find them in my mailbox and I never see anything too constructive in them. I want to tell you this—

The Address—Mr. W. C. Scott

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. I would ask the Hon. Member to address his remarks to the Chair, not directly to the Parliamentary Secretary.

Mr. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): He looked pretty attractive over there, Mr. Speaker, but I will direct my remarks to you. The Hon. Member for Central Nova dealt very fairly with the people in the settlement he had to make. Now we will go back to why that settlement was necessary. It was because of the actions of the Government which the Hon. Member represents in the economy of this country. If the Hon. Member for Central Nova had been Prime Minister at that time, this would never have occurred.

The economic forecast on the future of the Canadian economy did not give too much praise to the management of our country. Why? It is the massive debt built up by this Government which is hurting the economy. I wish in some of the brochures the Parliamentary Secretary sends out he would state the true facts.

Mr. Evans: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Lumley) is not in the Chamber but he is watching the debate. The Hon. Member raised some points regarding the IRD Program. It might be useful if the Hon. Member could be a little more specific on some of the problems companies are having with this program. I understand it has been well received and is certainly being well subscribed to by business. Lots of applications are in; perhaps that is one of the reasons that the events the Hon. Member has described have taken place. When he compares the IRD Program, passed by this House last June, to the old agreement, does it not have the potential to be a far superior arrangement for individual businesses? It is more flexible, it provides financing in those areas of greatest industrial need at a higher level than in other areas, so it does satisfy regional requirements.

Would the Hon. Member not agree that this program has that potential, and if there are specific problems he has, has he brought them to the attention of the Minister?

Mr. Scott (Victoria-Haliburton): Mr. Speaker, I was involved as my Party's representative in the meetings we had at the time we passed the program. I have great respect for the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. I have talked to him quite often. My sincere belief is that he is putting forward every effort he can. I talked to him as late as the day before yesterday and I find him very congenial. He told me at the time we passed this program that if it did not work, he would make it work. He would bring legislation to make it work.

Yes, I think it is better than the old program, but I do not think we can get it implemented fast enough in some regions of the country to give it the economic impact we need. That is what I am complaining about. I must say that I find some of the officials in the Department equally co-operative, but I think there is a big hold-up within the Cabinet in getting some of the money allotted fast enough.

Mr. Fretz: Mr. Speaker, if the Parliamentary Secretary would stay for just a minute, I have something to say regard-