

*Government Orders*

instead put more people at the mercy of those whose abilities to engage in a competitive economic environment. It does not take into consideration the new technological realities of the world.

It says here that Canadian investment per new worker has been the lowest among Organization for Economic Co-operation in Developing countries over the past two decades. Is it little wonder that we speak often in this House about the lack of competitiveness of our industries when our government refuses to do what is the absolute obvious to anybody who thinks or anybody who does not even think but sees the obvious? No, not to this government. Low investment means low productivity increases in the long term, and Canada is at the very back of the line.

I was so offended as a Canadian—and it sounds a little schmaltzy but I know that my friend opposite from Winnipeg shares this view—that we as Canadians could be at the back of the line in anything, especially when it comes to economic matters.

I know that there are members on the government side who trumpet the great entrepreneurial energies of Canadians. Yet we are able to read something like this, criticism from one of our own. The supply of cheap labour breeds dependency on it to the point where modernization becomes an impossible hurdle.

Those of us who have at least a small understanding of history will refer to the decline of all kinds of civilizations where the pool of cheap labour—dare I say slave labour—contributed to the total collapse of the civilization. We do not want that for our own country, nor should we. In fact one of the problems that we have is that not only do we have cheap labour; we have mismatches of jobs.

I do not know whether the minister or her department looked at some of the things that average people on the streets see on a day to day basis. Instead, they point to the unemployment rate in the country, 7.3 per cent and therefore dropping. I will come to that in a moment.

• (1230)

Not only am I applauding the members opposite, I think it is also a point that bears reflection because there is inherent criticism in it. Members opposite say: "That is it, nationally, but what about that nasty place, southern

Ontario, or that place that is the centre of nastiness, Toronto, where the unemployment rate is only 3.4 per cent? That means the country is doing well. So what about those nasty people who actually rely on the unemployment insurance fund?" Remember that is a fund into which people paid into. It is not one that somebody else is paying into on their behalf. All my insurance broker friends on both sides of the House will say: "If you pay premiums then you engage as a participant in the fund and, therefore, you have a right of access to that fund in time of need".

The unemployment rate in Toronto is 3.4 per cent. That is great. Three point four per cent unemployment in Toronto represents some 70,000 men and women who are out of work. In fact, with all due deference to my colleagues from New Brunswick, that is twice as many people as are unemployed in all of New Brunswick. Yet Bill C-21 is going to penalize everybody in the Toronto area who is so unfortunate as to not find a job. There are lots of jobs available in Toronto. We can look in the newspaper any day. Do you know what they are like, Mr. Speaker? Almost every restaurant, retail outlet and convenience store, it seems, have help wanted signs in the window. In my riding of Eglinton—Lawrence every store has a "help wanted" sign. What they do not say is what you will be paid for your labour.

But God help you, Mr. Speaker, if you happen to be one of the individuals that the hon. parliamentary secretary is so fond of reading about from a list. God help you if you happen to be an unemployed mechanical engineer. You are not going to find a job. This is a country that requires specialization, it requires great training. If one reads the minister's own words, she says that in the next 10 years 50 per cent of all jobs—I think the figure is 55 per cent—are going to require five years or better of post-secondary schooling or training. Here we have a mechanical engineer who has at least that and cannot find a job because the market is not prepared. In Toronto this man cannot find a job; not because he is not looking, not because he is not trained, not because he does not have skills and not because he wants to go on unemployment insurance—heaven's no—it is because he happens to be a mechanical engineer in a soft market, because manufacturers are not tooling up, because entrepreneurs are not taking advantage of the new technologies that are required to make their industries