

The Budget—Mr. M. Dionne

created in the primary extraction of oil and natural gas, 100 more jobs are created in the manufacturing and finished product sales sectors. Are we not right to develop policies which promote further development in the energy sector?

I believe that it is wise to conserve oil because \$24 of crude oil corresponds to \$35 of gasoline and \$3,500 of plastic goods. I believe that our industrialists should get into plastics, Mr. Speaker. What concerns me is that not enough of our young people are aware of the potential in that field. Indeed, according to a press release of the Minister of Supply and Services (Mr. Blais), Canada is an important producer of petroleum products, which are the main raw material of the plastics industry. Canadians do not take enough advantage of this competitive edge, otherwise, how can we explain the fact that Canada is the largest importer of plastics in the world and still has a trade deficit of \$700 million in this sector? I am happy that the Minister of Supply and Services has undertaken to rectify this situation.

On the other hand, according to the article in *Commerce*, there is a plastics technology institute in Edmonton. There might be others elsewhere, but if not, more should be created. The graduates of the Plastic Technology Institute of Edmonton are being offered six jobs each. So, every graduate turns down six jobs and the starting salary is \$1,300 to \$1,400 a month. What saddens me, Mr. Speaker, is that the Plastic Technology Institute of Edmonton can accept only 25 students every semester. Yet, how many students registered to that course for the 1980 summer session? Six, Mr. Speaker, and then you hear people complain that we admit too many immigrants.

If Canadians refuse to make an effort, if our educational system is not interested in the employment opportunities available to the students when they graduate from CEGEPs and universities, I think some individual and collective soul-searching is in order. When provincial governments are more interested in the constitution than in creating jobs for the unemployed, we say that we are fortunate to have a national government and a prime minister with both feet firmly planted on the ground and who look after the real interests of the people. And I am glad that the Minister of Finance has announced that the government intends to promote exports. Mr. Speaker, the export potential of my area is well known. We have aluminum and newsprint plants whose production is exported to other countries. However, Canada does not develop its full export potential.

In fact, according to the committee which reviewed the services to promote exports and which published a report called the Hatch report, we find that only 178 companies across Canada, are responsible for two-thirds of all Canadian exports. Canadian companies must necessarily take an interest in exports. I shall give another example, Mr. Speaker. Canada produces extraordinary farm products, renowned throughout the world. Let us take beef for instance; pork, which now

enjoys a high rating, has the reputation of being the best in the world. The same goes for our grain. However, the Americans, our competitors, are travelling throughout the world visiting dynamic missions selling millions of metric tons of grain while Canadian businessmen are waiting for buyers who do not come to call. I would like to see the Export Development Corporation be a lot more dynamic and on their toes which, I think would greatly contribute to improve our balance of payments.

Furthermore, according to the Hatch report, Canada lost a share of the market for finished products in the competition for world markets. Comparison between 1967 and 1977 reveals that Canada's share of the finished products market went from 5.9 per cent down to 4.6 per cent in 1977. However, in that year it was estimated that the total export markets for finished products amounted to \$650 billion. Therefore, a decrease of one percentage point in our share of the market means that we exported about \$6.5 billion less than we should have.

In other words, if Canada had just kept its share of the 1970 market, which was 6 per cent, and not let it go down to 4.6 per cent, and if our imports had remained at their present level, the \$7 billion deficit anticipated in our current account for the year 1979 would have been translated into a hefty surplus. On the matter of exports still, I think that we could make a better use of the aid we provide to developing countries. I do not share the view expressed by the vice-president of the CNTU, Mr. Christian Auger, who feels that Canada should increase its aid to the Third World but in a more unselfish way than we are doing at the moment.

To that statement I would like to add the following comment quoted from the Hatch report (Page 40, par. 1): "Business contends that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has been far too philanthropic, as far as aid is concerned, especially since 1970."

Further on, the committee discovered the irony of Canada, one of the main benefactors to the multilateral agencies, having one of the worst records when it comes to getting contracts through those agencies. The report emphasizes that the Germans and the Japanese and others are better than we are at devising the right procedure to obtain contracts. They get far more from the contracts than they give away.

Mr. Speaker, I reject the view of the CNTU. Why should underdeveloped countries be allowed to use our Canadian dollars to purchase German or Japanese products, thereby creating jobs for their workers? I believe that the aid which is provided to the developing nations should be tied to a buy-Canadian policy, which would help the production of Canadian goods manufactured by Canadians.

Another sector which is particularly neglected is tourism. Canada should be going through an unprecedented tourist boom if only because of the lower value of our dollar. But such is not the case, and the result is that our deficit in current accounts stands at over \$1 billion. We see lots of ads depicting