

Trade Policies

department how much we could save at IT and C if we shut the doors and paid the essential wages. He replied about \$10 million or \$15 million, because he said that all of the programs are committed, that they were all in place and they were all downstream. That is the problem today. The minister knows that—

An hon. Member: Not the minister.

Mr. Huntington: —the hon. member. I do not understand the wording of the hon. member's motion.

What business wants is government to create an environment of stability and predictability and confidence.

Mr. Pepin: He is ahead of his time.

Mr. Huntington: Business also wants wherever there is high risk some front-end benefit on a high risk investment. The tools are all in place for that and it is just a case of a wider application.

We will be moving with a budget very soon, Mr. Speaker. As a junior minister I have been very active in carrying research papers and alternatives on the tax credit points, and rationalizing that through to the finance. We have been very active in research and development programs and in rationalizing the various opportunities open to us for that. We have been very interested in rationalizing the techniques for putting in place programs to lift Canadian innovation from the work bench into the market place, which is a very expensive process. We are trying to spread the decision-making process out more widely across the Canadian business and industrial community rather than have decisions for people to play God and directing things by saying, "you can have this, or you can have that," or, "No, you cannot have this or that." That decision-making basis should be spread more widely. This is a fundamental difference.

Regarding industrial design, I have spent hours with the senior people in the Industrial Design Council of Canada and we are reworking Design Canada and the Industrial Design Council, because therein lies the future. Why have we been limiting that to a hobby-like program when, if we are to project ourselves into tomorrow, we are not going to think of ribbons and fancy paper or fancy covers around things; we are going to think of macro-design. We are going to design ways of doing things better and of competing more efficiently.

Why can small and medium-size industries in Italy pop up and take their place in the world market, in the European market and in the domestic market? Why? Because the Italians are years ahead of us in design. I have been doing all I can to learn from them in this area. One should take a look at the Italian frigate program and look at the involvement of the wide sector of their industry in that program. We must learn from these things.

I see that my time is running out, but I did want to conclude with about six other points, if I may.

● (1550)

The Acting Speaker (Mr. McCain): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. minister but his time has expired. He may continue only with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

Some hon. Members: Agreed.

Mr. Huntington: I thank the House very much. A number of policy measures are already in place. I do not think they should be overlooked or that we should fail to put them on the record. First, there is the energy self-sufficiency policy. A great deal of work on the part of the bureaucracy and the political system is involved in this. It cannot be brushed aside. Very serious and fundamental issues are involved here. I personally have called for a study of the industrial framework that should sit on top of a new energy thrust and the new energy era in Canada.

Although the Export Development Corporation has been very successful, its operations are being reviewed with the intention of making it more responsive to the private sector needs and international market needs of Canadian industry. With regard to grain transport facilities, do not tell me we are not aware in this House of the tremendous strides that have been made by my colleague, the Minister of Transport (Mr. Mazankowski).

The Minister of State for International Trade (Mr. Wilson) explained that he is deeply involved in improving our international marketing capabilities. The expanded duty remission system is part and parcel of strengthening a program in place and getting it wider spread and to better benefit Canadian workers. As I already mentioned, a number of measures have been taken to extend research and development so that there is a private participation in that very important aspect of Canadian life.

Foreign non-tariff trade barriers of all kinds are being studied as a result of the GATT negotiations, and massive adjustments have to be made on a bilateral basis or Canadian industry is going to be in very serious trouble. These are all things that are in the works and that we are working on very hard.

With regard to multilateral trade negotiations, there is a definite need to critically assess the usefulness of the multilateral forums to Canada and to rethink our long-term approach to our international trading relationships.

These are a few of the things on which this government has been able to get a handle. Sure, it has not finished it all, but my goodness, six months to unravel the damage of 16 years of extravagant, spendthrift rule, is impractical.

Mr. Hal Herbert (Vaudreuil): Mr. Speaker, as I have listened over the past few days and weeks to the plaintive cries from members of the Tory government speaking about what they are unable to do, I wonder when will come the day when enough time will have passed so that they will be able to say, "Today I can make up my mind and can do something." I even