

Finance

itself in the middle of the planning process of the economy of this country. That is fairly obvious.

In conversation with the president of Noranda in a program called "Sunday Morning" I was told by him that had INCO not gone into Indonesia, some other company would have done so, so in effect it is better that a Canadian mining company went there. Apparently we gave them some \$57 million in EDC loans at low interest. In response, I said that it was fine and I had no problem with that. I understand that INCO has a goal which is to penetrate the Japanese market, and this has led them to locate their plant in Indonesia. INCO has a plan and a goal and it will achieve that goal.

My next question to him was whether those are the goals for Canada. Who does the planning for Canada? In effect, no one does the planning for Canada, no elected leader. The directors or officers make the decisions for Noranda and for INCO and other such corporations. They have their mandate from the shareholders. But who sets the goals for Canada? The government has received a mandate from the people, but the government sets no goals, does no planning or evaluation, has no five year or ten year plan. They have all sorts of estimates of unemployment rates. The new thing now is estimates for the inflation rate. But there has been no structural planning in which the government is involved with the working people of this country and with those who invest money. There has been no planning of the economy of the country and no such thing as sector plans.

There is no planning in the mining sector. I know that the motto of Ontario Hydro says that to the people belong the resources. That may have been true when Ontario Hydro was set up, but we cannot say that today. What are the goals for the mining sector in this country? If the goal is that ore must be used to unlock other sources of wealth for future Canadians, then you start putting into place the kinds of taxation programs that are directed at achieving this goal. You put into place incentive programs, you set up evaluation processes and you put into place programs to help you achieve that goal. We have none of this. There is no sector planning and there is certainly no economic plan.

Let us take a look at those industrialized countries which are at the moment enjoying lowest unemployment rates. Let us take a look at the Japanese economy. There is economic planning there. If you look at the French economy, there is planning there, a five year plan, and they evaluate their programs as they go along to see if they are achieving the goals they have set for their economy.

What do we have in Canada? A government which says that the private sector will do it all. Indeed, the government looks upon the unemployed as the means of bringing down the inflation rate when it is high. In Toronto the other day at a Liberal conference, when the Prime Minister was asked what he intends to do with increasing inflation, he said he expects the inflation rate to go down because workers will demand less in wages next year because there is a large pool of unemployed and they will feel less secure about their jobs. That is Liberal philosophy for you. What they do is to fight inflation on the

[Mr. Rodriguez.]

backs of the workers of this country. There is no set strategy or plan. They are just following some old fashioned idea that you cannot have high unemployment and high inflation at the same time. That is living in a pipe dream because no plans have been laid out and no goals have been set. All we do is to stumble from crisis to crisis.

Here we are in a crisis where we find the value of the Canadian dollar has dropped to some 89 cents. As I said at the outset of my remarks, I am reminded of the banana republics. You can go to some of those banana republics where for \$1 American you can get a good exchange. For example, in Mexico for \$1 American you can get 13 pesos; and in Argentina you can get perhaps 325 pesetas or whatever.

That is what Canada is coming to. Very shortly we will be paying \$2 Canadian dollars for \$1 American. What has happened is that the government have prostituted our currency so that we are reduced to being no more than another banana republic where the resources are taken out very cheaply because the value of our Canadian dollar is at rock bottom. It could very well be that they have discovered the printing presses and are selling off our resources very cheaply, in effect mortgaging the future of Canada, because at the moment the government is borrowing to pay interest on money borrowed before. This results from relying on one's resources and literally tying them up in 25, 40 or 60 years and mortgaging the future of Canada for the short term.

Some pretty tough decisions must be made in this country, but I do not think the government has the backbone to do it. I have often thought they have a wishbone where their backbone should be. They do not have the backbone necessary to make the decisions that must be made in this country. So far as the Tory party is concerned, they are the pretenders to power. I see chairman "Sinc" smiling. I do not really think we can entrust—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): I suggest the hon. member should refer to members by their titles, not by their names.

Mr. Rodriguez: Yes, Mr. Speaker. I hardly think we should turn over the economy of this country to the terrible twins in the Conservative party who aspire to become the twin ministers of finance. That will be the twin-headed monster of finance. It should be quite something to see—the hon. member for Don Valley (Mr. Gillies) and the hon. member for York-Simcoe (Mr. Stevens), Jecky and Hyde.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Turner): Order, please. I regret to interrupt the hon. member but the time allotted to him has expired.

● (0152)

Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to enter into this debate except to say that there are no more speakers from Her Majesty's loyal opposition with respect to this matter; and on behalf of all of us in the House I would like to express thanks to the staff who have served