

of northern Ontario has benefited from federal government initiatives. Fednor is the latest example of this type of program. Even though this program has failed up to this point to make a major impact in our area, we are still concerned about the future of this and other similar programs.

Will regional economic development grants be considered subsidies? Again, the Minister for International Trade is still not sure if he will be successful in these negotiations. The problem is that we just do not know. I assure you, Mr. Speaker, that my constituents will not accept a "trust us" approach. We recognize fully that whenever an international agreement of any kind is signed, some of our sovereignty is lost. Will we lose regional economic development grants and will they be considered subsidies? We still do not know.

The quality of our environment is critical to us. Nipissing is blessed with an abundance of clear, clean water, beautiful lakes, forests and wildlife. Tourism is a major aspect of life in Nipissing and the economic benefits of tourism spread throughout the whole area. We fear acid rain. On the other hand, we welcome the Prime Minister's comments yesterday afternoon when he assured us that he is finally going to get off his "assid" rain moratorium and do something.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Wood: We also fear pollution from the American heartland and from our own industries. Government programs are in place and we will be urging the adoption of others to minimize industrial pollution of our environment. Will the government subsidies to industry for pollution abatement be considered unfair subsidies? Once again, a "trust us" answer is really not good enough.

Canadians in general and my constituents in particular feel close to the land, the water and the out of doors. We want guarantees that this Government will not negotiate away any protections that we demand.

There are many job skills shortages. Skilled tradesmen are required desperately in fields such as automotive, electrical, electronic, machining and other trades associated with the mining and the forestry industries. This Government has steadily reduced the funding for job skills training in my riding. Further cut-backs have already been announced for 1989. Are we now facing the risk of losing funds completely for skills training? Will the Americans argue that this funding represents unfair subsidies to business and industry? Will this

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Government be able to stand up to American pressure for harmonization? I worry for the workers who will be dislocated by the Canadian-American Free Trade Agreement.

• (1430)

The Government is fond of quoting the Economic Council of Canada. The Council admits that thousands of workers will be dislocated in a wide range of industries. If workers are dislocated in Nipissing, can the Government guarantee them equivalent jobs in our area? Can the Government guarantee them jobs at all? How is the Government planning to differentiate between jobs lost because of free trade and those lost for other reasons? What specific programs has the Government in place to assist those workers who are dislocated? Can the Government guarantee the workers of Nipissing that they will not suffer?

I worry about the workers in Nipissing who have negotiated reasonable union contracts with their employers. The new buzz word, as I said before, will be harmonization. Management will argue that we must harmonize with the Americans' labour costs, that the cost of benefits must be in harmony with those in the United States if we are to compete. We will hear this argument many times over in the next four years.

What does this Government plan to do to protect workers from unjust contract stripping? The overwhelming majority of Canadians reject the Reagan-Thatcher approach whereby the only thing that matters is a market-driven economy. Canadians believe in fairness, compassion and a balance between the needs and goals of business and the needs and goals of individual citizens. Business does not exist to be compassionate. Its legitimate goal is profit. It is the role of Government to ensure that legitimate social concerns are heard in our society and at the same time acted upon.

I am concerned, Mr. Speaker, that hard-won legitimate gains by labour and others will be lost as pressure is placed on them to harmonize. I urge the Government to be ever vigilant in its negotiations with the U.S. over the next few years.

Everyone recognizes that the impact of the Mulroney-Reagan agreement will be swift and immediate. The Economic Council of Canada states that the benefits to the U.S. are immediate, that the adjustments required of Canadian workers in many industries will be immediate. Will the protection to Canadian workers also be immediate by this Government?