

review that policy and to intervene with the CBC in order to see that those stations that we need so badly for the protection of our cultural heritage are not taken away from us.

I can give as an example of this the station in Labrador City which is in a remote area formerly served by the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) when he was President of the Iron Ore Company of Canada. Communities such as that one are fighting for their lives at the present time. As we know, the iron ore and steel industries are struggling for survival. I do not believe that they are sunset industries by any stretch of the imagination, but they are going through some very rough times. Now, when they are struggling for survival, it seems to me that it is wrong to take away their voice, their self-image and the protection of their cultural heritage. I do not believe that the Government can, on the one hand, say that it can protect this and, on the other hand, take steps to destroy it. If I may, Mr. Speaker, I would ask government Members to review that policy.

I am afraid that what we have before us at the present time is nothing of substance but more fluff and more cosmetics from a Government that has certainly become known for that in the economic fields. Perhaps government Members need time. I know that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark) has put forward policy statements which have some substance. We may agree or disagree with these statements, but at least there is some substance to them. The same thing must happen in terms of economic policy.

The Government must put before us meaningful measures for job creation. Instead, what we have are cut-backs. For example, there have been cut-backs in unemployment insurance at a time when job creation is at an all-time high in my own province. For example, there have been cut-backs in the fisheries infrastructure at a time when that particular industry is struggling for survival. There have been increases in the ferry rates to Newfoundland. Ferries are the very lifeline of islands like mine and Prince Edward Island. If the ferry rates are increased, not only will it discourage business and add to its costs but an added burden will be put on the consumer who has the least ability to bear that burden.

Instead of receiving meaningful job-creation measures, we have received cut-backs which will have a negative effect on our economy. I say to the Government that now is the time to forget the posturing, the rhetoric and the public relations and get on with putting before us real policies for meaningful job creation in the country.

Mr. Brian Tobin (Humber-Port au Port-St. Barbe): Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in my place today and take this opportunity to address this Bill. I find that I must rise today to caution against what seems to be the unbridled enthusiasm of the Government for advertising Canada as being open for business with no strings attached. I of course have no complaint with the notion that Canada is open for business. I applaud any initiative that brings legitimate investment capital into the country. I remind the Government that approximately 97 per cent of the applications that were brought before FIRA in the past year were approved in any case. Simply changing

Investment Canada Act

the name of this agency from FIRA to Investment Canada, while it is a lovely cosmetic change, will not in and of itself have much impact on job creation in the country.

At the very time that the Prime Minister (Mr. Mulroney) is telling Canadians and the assembled group of boardroom chairmen from the United States that Canada is open for business, there are certain groups in the United States telling us that the United States may not be open to Canadian exports. Canadians know that a few friendly words which passed between the President and the Prime Minister in March do not mean influence over the administration, much less over Congress or various sectors of the U.S. economy. In particular, I speak of the softwood lumber industry for which efforts have been renewed in the last few weeks to curb Canadian exports.

Canada is by far the world's largest exporter of lumber. We supply over 40 per cent of the world's total supply of lumber. More than 66 per cent of those exports from Canada went to the United States in 1982. Of that amount, 56 per cent came from the Province of British Columbia alone.

It seems to me to be somewhat frightening that, on the one hand, while we are advertising that Canada is open for business and has been open for business for some time, on the other hand the United States has increased protectionist tendencies. The softwood lumber sector in the United States is moving rapidly not by means of protest but, in its own mind, by means of legislation to prohibit or restrict to a minimal amount the importation of lumber from Canada.

The forestry industry is the single largest producer and generator of jobs in this country. There is no bigger industry. In terms of our balance of trade, it is bigger than agriculture, fisheries, mining and oil and gas all put together. That is how critical this industry is to Canada. Unfortunately, in the House of Commons and, I would suggest, across the country among the public at large and in particular in the Cabinet, there is not much appreciation of that very real and very startling simple economic statistic.

Rather than getting on with the business of making cosmetic changes to the names of agencies, rather than managing by media manipulation, rather than tying its appearance of competence to the ability of its media managers, I would like to ask the Government when, in addition to practising its love-in with the current United States administration, it will stand up and defend Canadian interests. This administration recently signed an agreement restricting Canadian shipments of duty-free newsprint into Europe to 600,000 tonnes annually. Our quota used to be 1.5 million tonnes annually. I have just told the House about the importance of softwood lumber. Let me tell Hon. Members as well that newsprint is the second major component in the value of the Canadian forestry industry. Over 100 communities in Canada are single-industry towns which are dependent on this industry. Yet an agreement was signed during the Christmas recess, the details of which were announced on December 27 when nobody was paying attention. That agreement restricts Canada's ability to go duty-free into that market. An industry spokesman in *The*