

allowing market forces and market forces alone to dictate Canadian economic policy.

Incredibly the Tories claim to have strengthened research and development expenditures in Canada. With all due respect, this claim is simply false. In its 1990 world competitiveness report—and incidentally competitiveness is a new buzz-word for this government—Canada has been competitive over the years. We have turned out some of the best minds in the world. We have turned out many of the best products in the world. When we talk about competitiveness, this is not something new to us. We have been there. We are competitive and we will continue to be competitive in the years ahead.

To return to the world's competitiveness report, the World Economic Forum makes the following observations and conclusions, to which I concur.

Of the 23 OECD countries, Canada ranks today 17th in over-all research and development efforts, dropping from a 10th place ranking in 1984 when this government took over the reigns of power.

Second, in future orientation which heavily reflects research and development performance, Canada fell to an abysmal 16th place ranking in 1990, down from 9th spot in 1986.

This is an indictment of the policies of this government. These figures provide clear evidence that Canada's research and development effort has deteriorated significantly since the Conservatives took office. Even when compared to smaller, less wealthy countries, Canada is chronically weak in research and development performance. That is a sad fact.

Conservative support for innovation has been shamefully low. I am sad to say that it is not getting any better. At the scientific level we will surely expect a brain drain, a continuing brain drain, while at the manufacturing level we will continue to see heavy losses in employment and opportunities for jobs, Canadian jobs for our use, for our students, for the future of Canada.

The government said that we were "open for business". There are some of us who would also say that some of them on the other side think that Canada is for sale. But this country is not for sale. This country belongs to us, the Canadian people, but this style which has run

throughout their economic policy has created, is creating and will continue to create economic chaos.

Not surprisingly, foreign investors have been quick to respond. Acquisition of Canadian assets by foreigners has virtually leapt in recent years. At one time they accounted for less than 10 per cent of foreign direct investment. They now account for over 55 per cent. "Open for business", I say that is a fallacy. We are giving away the economic control of our country and that is not acceptable to Canadians in this day and age.

Another example of the damaging consequences of this government's economic philosophy is found in the area of manufacturing policy. Here again our youth is deprived of opportunities, be it in the fields of research, administration or manual labour.

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Over the past 18 months alone, Canada has lost over 172,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector. When the government introduced its legislation for Bill C-21, the UIC bill, one of the promises made to Canadians was that a substantial amount of the these funds would be redirected and used for training or retraining the unemployed.

I felt a sense of relief at this announcement as I hoped that many young people, particularly those who had dropped out of school, would have a chance to join this program, upgrade their skills or learn a trade and give them at least a fighting chance in our society.

However, as we watch the ramifications of this bill, particularly from a financial point of view, we have reason to doubt that once more the government has made a serious commitment in this area as well. Bill C-21 called for an increase in the premiums for employees and employers alike. As part of Bill C-21, the government committed itself to maintaining premium levels for 1990, 1991 and 1992.

However, this year's budget paper states: "Rates would be adjusted in such a manner to ensure the financial integrity of the account". This may mean one of two things: either employer contributions will sky-rocket to meet any deficits in the unemployment insurance fund—and we see there will be a deficit for this year—or rates will increase for employees as well, breaking the