

because that more accurately reflects the views of this government. Those views are blank. The government has no views on foreign investment in this country.

Bill C-262 is just camouflage in respect of this problem. It diverts attention from the larger problems regarding relationships between Canada and the United States. We have heard many speeches in this country in the last few months about our economic nationalism, yet we have been caught in a policy vacuum because Mr. Nixon has decided to declare his economic nationalism.

Our friends to the left in the NDP must feel they have had a bear by the tail. Their leader must decide whether to stay with the waffles or get off the waffle iron. Mr. Nixon has to some extent adopted the rhetoric of the waffle movement, and I do not think the NDP can have it both ways. The leader of the NDP tried to suggest many alternatives during this debate, including the levying of an across-the-board export tax on everything manufactured in or shipped from the west. He did not mention anything about the east. He has to decide whether to stay with the waffle group or get off the waffle iron because it is too hot.

I suggest the surtax is only one piece of the whole puzzle. If that piece is removed we will still be left with the realities of the proposals advanced by Mr. Nixon which, as I said, may in the long run have far more reaching and fundamental effects on Canada. Certainly, they will have a more fundamental effect on Canada than all the speeches we have had to date on this question of economic nationalism.

Yesterday the Prime Minister added a new term to the political lexicon. Several months ago he said there are political nobodies and political somebodies. He then became involved in an interesting little monologue along that vein. Yesterday he said there are in this government non-heads of non-branches. In spite of all the concern Canadians have about the United States program, at least that country has taken some action following some decisions. Notwithstanding all the task forces we have had in this country, that action and those decisions have caught us in a vacuum. Instead of using the United States move as a catalyst for action in this country, hopefully to mobilize public opinion, we are still in a vacuum. The government should have made a move to promote business. It should have granted tax incentives to stimulate the economy. We have a sluggish economy, in spite of what Mr. Benson has said. The government should advance imaginative proposals for monetary reform instead of compromising between shades of white and black.

Instead of advancing a comprehensive policy, the government is putting another patch on the quilt. It should clean that economic quilt or substitute it with a new cover. Canada needs more than another patch on an old quilt. I must ask myself and other members whether we deserve more when we allow a Prime Minister to run a government with non-heads of non-branches. I suggest this means we also have non-government. The minister can well ask us to read the measure again, but let me remind him that some of his former colleagues have

Employment Support Bill

moved out of the government ranks as a result of dissatisfaction with policies or the lack of policies on these basic issues. When the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) comes into the House and says facetiously and superciliously, as he did yesterday, that there are non-heads of non-branches, we must conclude there are non-policies, non-government and non-economic nationalism. This government has advanced no major proposals and has no policy in respect of the announcement by Mr. Nixon. We are supposed to hold our breath and wait for another piecemeal or patchwork piece of legislation.

Japan and Germany have already reacted, yet we are playing around with \$80 million to offset a measure which is fundamental and will alter our trade patterns. I knew the Canadian mosaic had many pieces, but I did not know they were so jumbled. I thought the Canadian mosaic gave a more clear picture than we are seeing. We have all heard of the cultural crossroad and the constitutional crossroad. I suggest we have reached the economic crossroad. Instead of timidity, this government should mobilize the latent pride of Canada and aggressively approach the problems presented by the actions of the United States. We must consider them in that light instead of with empty heads, empty souls and empty policies. With that bit of rhetoric, one might ask what we can do or what should we have done. I suggest that is a most fair question to ask.

● (3:50 p.m.)

I think one of the first things we should have done was to initiate very directly with the President of the United States, and not with some of his secretaries or officials, bilateral talks with our Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) on this whole question of the economy. Then, the point could have been made and underlined that we in this country are concerned; that we are sympathetic with the American problem but are concerned about whether the resolution of that problem will adversely affect us. I suggest that Bill C-262 does nothing at all to exert any pressure on anyone south of the border to help him wake up in respect of how these measures will adversely affect us. The case is not even recognized by the United States public, let alone by the United States Congress. That is one of the fundamental objections I have to Bill C-262. It does nothing to help put pins in anybody south of the border to help redress the problem of the North American continent.

Certain things have been fundamentally upset by the unilateral move by Mr. Nixon. Up until now we in Canada, whether at war or at peace, had a tradition of dealing with economic problems in a free and independent manner. Obviously, much of our economy was interwoven in the web of world trade but nonetheless we never accepted any form of aid from any other nation, including the United States. Instead, we negotiated bilaterally and multilaterally in respect of the import and export of products, services and capital. We note that in the past few years economic conditions around the world have been subject to severe strains which have manifested themselves by spiralling inflation, unemployment, usurious interest rates, and currency problems. To avoid a