

Industry, Science and Technology

helped the Canadian forestry sector. This is a series of actions, the worst of which, frankly, was the voluntary acceptance of a 15 per cent export duty which seriously damaged employment prospects and growth prospects in the forestry sector right across this country.

• (1250)

The same point can be made with respect to pulp and paper, where the very serious implications of a takeover of Consolidated Bathhurst by Stone Containers of Chicago seem not even to have been looked at by the Minister who is responsible for Investment Canada, that is, the Minister who is responsible for this Bill.

The same point can be made with respect to steel. The steel industry has faced constant threats, constant retaliatory action from the United States in terms of trade, especially with respect to specialist steel. This Government has not at any stage taken action to pull together the steel industry of this country to try to work out a joint strategy, not just to trade but a joint strategy with respect to future investment, to future support for that industry, to future training assistance, if that were required.

I have just come back from talking with one of the largest steel companies in this country, and there is certainly not, from what they tell me, any sense of interaction between Government and the steel industry with respect to the whole broad set of production, employment, technology and environmental issues which face this industry in the future.

The same thing is true of textiles. With respect to textiles there has been consultation. There has not been agreement. The textile industry has felt itself to have been sacrificed in the negotiations over free trade.

An Hon. Member: And the printing industry.

Mr. Langdon: That is not the only industry. As my colleague has suggested, it is true of printing. It is true of the food industry, food processing.

An Hon. Member: Apparel.

Mr. Langdon: It is also true of most of the apparel industry, which is quite opposed to the approach which the Government has taken in the negotiations over free trade as they affect apparel.

I suggest to the Minister, who is throwing out interjections, that he should spend some talking to the apparel industry. Some of them are small businesses, I say to the Minister. That is what that Minister is responsible for. It is not just the typical manufacturing industries with which Government should be concerned. It is also industries which are less traditional, like tourism. The tourist industry has essentially been abandoned by this Government. There are various ERDA agreements which funnel assistance through the provinces. But the tourist industry is no longer even eligible for help from this Ministry with respect to the kinds of grants and assistance which the Ministry provides to other parts of the economy.

Finally, in looking at some of these sectors, I note the machinery sector of our economy. Surely, by this point we have to realize that you cannot be a sophisticated high technology industrial country without giving real support, real help in the development of a machinery sector. The machinery firms in my constituency tell me absolutely bluntly that what they get from this Government is nothing but hassle. They get harassment in terms of tariff decisions, which I have to spend a good deal of my time trying to straighten out. They get harassment in terms of taxation problems, which also end up in my constituency office. If we did not have at least a few people on this side of the House who are concerned about this sector of our country's economy, so basic to building up a future for us in Canada, the machinery sector would be in much worse shape than it is at this stage.

An Hon. Member: Nonsense!

Mr. Langdon: What do we aim at as a Party in the face of this kind of consistent pattern of failure on the part of the Government in trying to carry its sectorial policies forward? For ourselves, we see the necessity of a highly competitive, high-tech entrepreneurial basis to much of our economy so that it can compete internationally. There is no disagreement with respect to that, despite the attempts of the Government to suggest that somehow the New Democratic Party is representative of 20th Century Luddites. But we have a commitment which this Government has not demonstrated to that kind of high-tech part of Canada's economy.