

to new industries and to workers for retraining so that they may move to other jobs and develop new skills and capacities. It seems to me that that is a useful enterprise. The government is not saying it is perfect. But rather than standing at their desks and pounding them with wild abandon, what we would look to the NDP for are constructive alternatives, useful solutions and ideas as to how that program can perform more efficiently. All we receive from them is their rhetorical flourishes that add up to nothing when you look at the content for substance.

The government has put in place the industrial renewal board to deal with the major adjustments in the textile industry that will affect tens of thousands of workers. This is a new initiative designed to work in co-operation with private industry. The government is able to recruit some of the top flight business community to work with government to develop ways of helping those communities and workers adjust to their problems. The government is trying to tackle those issues, Mr. Speaker. We are concerned about those issues and attempting to apply innovative solutions. We are not simply standing on the floor of the House of Commons saying, "Why don't you practice our theories?" We are trying to proceed in a pragmatic, useful and effective way.

This resolution before us refers to the lack of an industrial strategy. An industrial strategy is not just pasting a bunch of principles on the wall. Again, it is putting something into play, putting something to work.

The hon. member for Capilano asks: "Why isn't the government doing something about the problem of skilled workers?" I say to the hon. member: Why doesn't he read the budget documents? Why isn't the hon. member aware of what is going on in this House? Why isn't he aware of this government's initiative last year of a major study of the manpower human resource needs of this country? Why isn't the hon. member aware that the government has signed a number of agreements with the coal mining industry, the forest industry and the ship-building industry to develop manpower plans in each of those industrial sectors? Why isn't he aware that presently the government is spending over \$800 million in training 250,000 Canadians in new skills at the present moment?

Is the member from Capilano so unfeeling, so unseeing, that he is not prepared to recognize what is in front of him, that 250,000 Canadians will benefit from federal government training programs? Is the hon. member not aware of the new program that was introduced last year to bring women into non-traditional trades which this year alone has helped to recruit 2,500 women in non-traditional trades, 2,500 women who were not there before, to give them a chance in those trades? Is the hon. member not aware of the new training programs for the native people of this country which will give them a chance to gain new skills in those areas?

I stand sometimes in amazement at the unwillingness of members opposite to deal with these problems in a rational way and say that they accept and give credit for what is being done, but here are some ways of improving and changing it. Instead, hon. members opposite paint this picture of horrid

chaos around them to try to frighten and stampede Canadians. Their only purpose is for some minuscule political ambition.

Let us have a serious debate on economic problems.

**An hon. Member:** Why did you close down the native school in Hay River?

**Mr. Axworthy:** Let us look at what is in place. If the hon. member wants to talk about that, I will mention the additional \$6 million put into the community employment program to provide for special requirements for native people moving to large towns and communities in western Canada. The government is developing the kind of ability to work with those groups, whether they are native people or women, so that we may tailor and harness government resources to their needs.

● (1620)

What we have in place now is the process by which we will put forward, in a matter of weeks, a serious and well-established program for national training across Canada. It was not designed unilaterally or arbitrarily, but after we listened to and received recommendations from the parliamentary committee, our own task force, the trade unions, business leaders and the social community. We have tackled our job in a careful and responsible manner and have arrived at a training program to fit the needs of the eighties.

When the hon. member opposite asks where the industrial strategy is, there it is, Mr. Speaker. It is being developed. It is being worked on.

**Mr. Huntington:** It is pitiful.

**Mr. Axworthy:** The hon. member says that it is pitiful. What a sad, pitiful comment that is. The hon. member is so incapable of understanding the world around him that it is not possible for him to engage in what is taking place.

**Mr. Huntington:** Do you really believe that?

**Mr. Axworthy:** I always believe what I say, unlike the hon. member who obviously, by the nature of his speeches, lives in a world of fantasy.

We have in place in the budget and in a range of government programs a variety of measures to deal with the issues. But we are not satisfied with that. We do not believe that is sufficient. We believe we must put in place a program that will enable us to come to grips with the potential that this country has. What we put forward in the budget was a number of documents dealing with fiscal relations between the federal and the provincial governments to try to realign the balance of the resources in this country, to provide for a far more effective strategy in dealing with the problems of higher education so that we could begin to target the places where training and education can be most relevant to the economic, social and cultural objectives of the country.

We have put in place a basic reform of the tax system to bring about equity. The hon. member for Capilano stood on