

We do not want a government that is going to sit on its duff and do nothing. We do not want governments with ministers who say the fat times are over, who attempted to blame it all on the Canadian people when they were speaking their baloney out in "Kelowney" British Columbia, last summer. I have the clipping here which came out of the paper. The fat times are over. Everyone is to blame but the Canadian government. The Canadian people are to blame for everything, not the Canadian government.

Investment intentions are down. Businessmen are not investing. We are falling behind in investment. We have a Prime Minister who said a couple of years ago that the government had to regulate everything. He is now cosyng up to the businessmen himself, but the Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Science and Technology (Mr. Buchanan) was criticizing businessmen just the other day. They have not got any hustle, he said. The Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for Science and Technology said that while ITC officials, and I quote, "bust their behinds" to get export orders, Canadian businessmen take it easy. He said he reported this to the Prime Minister who stated, and I quote, "Judd, Amen; that's the story I get on all the trips I have taken. We Canadians seems to lack the entrepreneurial spirit, lack that hustle". That is what the Prime Minister said. That is the output.

They want us to encourage businessmen to invest and do more. They are saying that their civil servants and themselves have more hustle than Canadian businessmen. Well, by golly, if that is the case, Canadian businessmen should all go and jump in Lake Ontario tomorrow. If they have not got more hustle than the hon. crowd that I have seen opposite for the last 18 months, they are in dire straits indeed. It is no wonder they are not investing. They are not going to invest until they get a government in which they can have some confidence. It must be near the close of my time.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Order, please. I regret to inform the hon. member that his allotted time has expired.

Hon. Barney Danson (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to follow the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), the great Pagliacci of the Conservative party. I was delighted to hear his valedictory address. He is entertaining and persuasive, if one does not stop to think about it. I must say that I agree with the hon. member's tribute paid to the hon. member for Halifax (Mr. Stanfield). He is a great member of this House, a great leader of his party and a great Canadian who will be missed very much. I have said those things in other places at other times about the hon. gentleman.

"Fat lips" referred to "flip lips" across the way here. I do not know quite to whom he was referring, but he kept on speaking about the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) and unsound policies, which is the way to shake confidence in the dollar, in the economy, and in the hearts of the Canadian people. He disparages the dollar, which is a competitive dollar.

The Budget—Mr. Danson

I do not know what the hon. member's policy would be. I do not know what his party's policy would be, and I do not know what the policy would be of any of their finance critics relating to the dollar. Would they let it float, would they peg it, would they intervene and, if they intervened, to what extent would they intervene? Do they think a competitive dollar at honest levels is a proper thing, or not? I say it is an opportunity dollar which allows us to be competitive in the world today, if we take advantage of it and if our own confidence is not shaken and the confidence of others who invest in this country is not shaken by the type of words we have been hearing from across the way.

I think the hon. member misses the point on the sales tax issue. He has been very flippant on the question of who is right. Of course there was a co-ordinated effort among the provinces and the federal government. There were discussions with the Minister of Finance (Mr. Chrétien) and the finance ministers of the provinces. It is the first time as far as I know that this has happened in the history of this country. That is co-operative federalism. That is putting your money where your mouth is. It is this type of consultation which will get us further.

We do not need to continue to score debating points in a pre-electoral period. We are in the midst of a serious debate on the budget. We need rational and constructive comments and criticism; a real assessment of the situation.

In my view, and in the view of many other responsible Canadians, we are on the verge of the greatest strategic industrial development in the history of our nation. We cannot lose confidence in ourselves, and we cannot allow those criers of doom and gloom to get us down. Then there are those people who suggest we are going bankrupt, as I heard the hon. member for St. John's West say last night, and those people who say we are winding down.

However, I would like to quote from the *Globe and Mail* of April 15, 1978, part of an address made to the Empire Club of Canada in Toronto. It reads:

We must set aside the unworthy and unfounded notion that this country is winding down. We are sharing in the problems of the rest of the world, but we are also sharing in its opportunities.

The address goes on to say:

In terms of average growth, our economy has outpaced the United States and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development total economies, since 1973.

The same speaker said:

Again during this most recent four-year period, real output grew almost twice as fast as in the United States (6.1 per cent compared to 3.1 per cent). Manufacturing employment in Canada is up slightly, while manufacturing jobs in the United States have declined by 2.3 per cent.

The address continues:

Before looking ahead, we should appreciate that the ground we hold is good, and that an extreme assault, from either the right or the left, on our existing economic and governmental structures is not justified and would only get in the way of feasible and sensible initiatives.