

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, February 6, 1984

The House met at 11 a.m.

● (1105)

[English]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONTINUATION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed from Thursday, January 26, consideration of the motion of Mr. Jack Burghardt for an address to His Excellency the Governor General in reply to his speech at the opening of the session.

Hon. Ron Huntington (Capilano): Mr. Speaker, in the 20 minutes that I have on this the second Throne Speech debate of the Thirty-second Parliament, I want to touch on two things. First, the reality of work and production in the industrial world for the balance of this century; second, the futility of and the dark economic future ahead for countries which continue with more and more government intervention and control of the marketplace. I will argue that the interventionist policies of the Liberal-Socialist alliance are wrong and in fact impede our ability to remain a player in the new industrial world. I will argue that the continuance of a tax beyond the purpose for which it was designed is confiscation and deprives the nation of the vigour and momentum it needs.

Let me provide an example of an economy which is growing, moving forward and adapting to present and future realities. I, along with other colleagues on both sides of the House, participated in an exciting and informative trip recently to Taiwan. I also personally have knowledge of the emerging economic debates within the People's Republic of China. The issue of Hong Kong, the Island of Taiwan and the People's Republic of China on the mainland perhaps carries the hope that the ideological struggle and impasse between the eastern and western superpowers can be resolved. The two ideologies are symbolized in Europe with East and West Berlin and the missile standoff. The two ideologies in Asia are at a stand off between the corporatist structure of Japan, the free enterprise economies of Hong Kong and Taiwan and the state capitalism of mainland China.

The hope I carry is that the Chinese leaders in both ideological camps are showing an awareness that a compromise by way of a blend of systems some time in the future might be possible. The thoughts on Hong Kong offered recently in the House by Premier Zhao Ziyang gave me hope that the Chinese minds will resolve the ideological impasse without resorting to war. If they can resolve this impasse, they will provide the opportunity for mankind to walk together into the future.

The bottom line, of course, is freedom. It could be that, as we move to resolve our debate in Canada between those who

believe in more state ownership and control and those of us who believe man is best served by spreading the decision-making base more widely under the rule of law, we too will be able to play a part in the merger or defusing of tensions between the two systems. Is the answer not to be found in that system or combination of systems that serves the needs of man best and allows us to embrace the future with hope and with freedom?

● (1110)

Taiwan is a controlled, free enterprise model that is an economic miracle alongside mainland China. It has an unemployment rate of 1.5 per cent which is considered to be too tight. The Premier told us that he believes a rate of 3 per cent would be more desirable and more manageable.

The emphasis on the family unit on that island allowed it to absorb the impact of high energy prices. When industries closed to allow an adjustment to new costs, the labour force returned to their family units. This sponge effect was an essential element in the cushioning of economic cycles and the imbalance caused by unforeseen world market forces. The cost was not a burden on their treasury.

In Taiwan people work six days a week and 10 hours a day. There is competition for jobs and a job is a very valued thing. The average male industrial wage per month is \$400 U.S. while the average female wage is \$300. In the beginning, the top to bottom wage differential was 15 to 1; today it is 4 to 1. This narrowing is of great importance and pride to Taiwan's political leaders.

The people are well dressed, drive mopeds, motorcycles and cars. Their housing is reinforced concrete built to withstand earthquakes and there appears to be a comfortable, disposable income beyond food, clothing and shelter. The farmland was purchased from the landlords and sold to those who work it. Agriculture feeds 18.5 million people and there is a surplus for export. The people eat very well.

All of this is to say that people value their jobs, strive for better ones, are motivated and understand the need to be productive. They do not need a productivity council. Their industry is modern, making use of the latest technologies. There has been a large emphasis on that island on small enterprise, with the state now moving to encourage the small to grow to medium-sized operations in order to filter out the waste of excessive competition. The high-tech industrial park is designed to exceptionally high standards and it attracts the new, integrated, international industries.

Over there we saw research that was 10 years in evolution out of "Silicone Valley" in California being placed into production in their high-tech industrial park. The companies are