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ship out our mineral resources, we are also shipping out our human resources because we educate our young people to levels which equip them to undertake challenging and interesting jobs, but since we do not have those jobs, our young people are shipped out with the ore.

● (1642)

We have said that we must have the infrastructure. They call us the nickel capital of the world. Our only claim to that title is the fact that our people rip out the resource from the ground, put it into box cars and ship it out. The objective of any national economic plan must be that the resource be used, first of all for the benefit of this generation and future generations of Canadians, so that any surplus generated from the resource is plowed back and put into the infrastructure in the communities from which the resource was taken.

We talk about related industries. For example, there is no reason in the world why we should not be producing equipment for mining in the Sudbury basin. At present we have to import equipment from Finland. Imagine importing to the Sudbury basin mining equipment from Finland! We have the mines there, many of which are now closed, which could be turned into laboratories for developing new mining equipment.

We do not have a nickel rolling mill. The Royal Canadian Mint buys 50 per cent of its rolled nickel from Inco, and that comes from Pittsburgh. They purchase the other 50 per cent from Sherritt Gordon. It comes from the Philippines to the Sherritt Gordon mill at Fort Saskatchewan and then is sold to the Royal Canadian Mint. Even the coins in your pocket, Mr. Speaker, are not the result of Canadian labour to any extent other than the extraction of the metal from the ground.

We should look at how the Japanese protect their industries. We have raised this question with the minister numerous times. In effect, Japan has a temporary import tariff of 13 per cent on finished nickel. We have said that surely we should have some sort of import tariff against raw nickel coming into this country when we have nickel stockpiled up to our eyeballs. The problem is that we have a government which is part and parcel of the establishment. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce laughs, but let me point out to him that no sooner had the former minister of finance stepped out of his ministerial portfolio, than he was clasped to the bosom of the boys on Bay Street and given a \$200,000 a year job. Now he is set for life. The previous minister of finance has also gone to his rewards on Bay Street and will be clasped to the bosom of the boys there.

One only has to look at the structure of the government. They are only puppets and mouthpieces of those who invest in the country and have the big bucks. They do exactly what they are told by Bay Street, no more, no less. They do not challenge that structure because that is the way the boys on Bay Street like it, and that is the way they will have it.

We spoke about what is needed. We need a national economic plan with sector strategies. Furthermore, we need a government whose first basic commitment is to full employment and which will never allow the Canadian worker to be

[Mr. Rodriguez.]

used as any kind of tool in any fight, whether it be against inflation, against unemployment, or against anything else. The Canadian worker must not be used as a tool in those struggles as the government sees them.

Indeed, the Prime Minister, speaking at the Liberal conference in Toronto some five or six weeks ago, when asked whether he expected inflation to come down in the next year or so, said that he expected it to come down and the reason was that he did not think workers would be asking for big increases in their wages as they had been doing prior to the controls. He also said that the reason he did not think they would ask for these big increases was that there was such a large pool of unemployed people in this country. Imagine the Prime Minister making a statement like that! He was saying in effect that the government had a plan to have a large pool of unemployed.

As a matter of fact, they should be very proud of themselves over there; they can be proud of their accomplishment in the number of unemployed having reached one million. Perhaps they should give a lottery prize to the one millionth person unemployed. It goes well with the way the government approaches problems in this country. If you have a debt in the Olympics fund, create a lottery; if you need to subsidize amateur sports, start a lottery. The provinces have picked that up now. If we cannot deal with problems in a realistic way, we deal with them in dreamland, in the never-never land. We say "You too can win \$1 million. Have a provincial Loto, have a Perfecto, have a Wintario, have a Loto Canada." They are following a dangerous path, I suggest. We have to deal with these problems and we need a commitment to full employment.

The first and foremost thrust of the government should be to ensure that jobs are not disappearing in communities which can least afford it. That is why we suggest that in the short term the government should be stockpiling nickel because we recognize that, as soon as people lose their jobs, we will pay them unemployment insurance. Now we find new changes in the unemployment insurance scheme. When those changes were brought in, all the Tories voted in favour of them. The hon. member for Hamilton West was all for changing the required number of weeks worked to enable the unemployed to collect benefits. Now we find in all parts of the country that people cannot even get unemployment insurance benefits because they could not accumulate the required number of weeks worked to participate in the scheme. What they are doing is to rush into welfare programs. In our area in Ontario we find that the welfare programs are out of funds, so we have large numbers of people sitting around hoping that some organization will give them a few dollars.

I said that the NDP is committed to economic planning. We have said that there must be a national economic plan with sector strategies. We have said that in this party we believe in full employment. We cannot support tinkering and manipulating with the economic structure in this country. We have said that a clear alternative rests in this corner on this side of the House. Very often members on the other side of the House become removed from the problems of the people of this