

*Industry, Science and Technology*

In conclusion, we urge the Minister to stand up for a strong Canada and a strong economy. It is not a shame or a crime for governments to sit down with business and plan our economic future. Some businesses have their own plans for the future five or ten years, and those that do not seldom survive. The Government can play a unique role in our economy that business alone cannot. Canada does not have the large defence spending that the United States has, nor do we want it. The Government has a role to play in encouraging research and development, and encouraging education and training that will make us world leaders.

It is a travesty that 70 per cent of Canadian young people leave high school and go into the workforce without post-secondary education or any type of job training. We cannot compete with the Japanese and the Americans with a record that is so abysmal in this area. Our most important and precious resource is our human resource. The Government pays lip service to that, but it has capped the educational spending for native Canadians, the people who are most desperate to have the education.

The Government has a critical role to play in ensuring that incentives are there for Canadians to invest in our businesses. We await the Budget with bated breath to see what the Government will do to encourage worker participation in investing in companies, and to see what it will do to encourage outside investors to invest in Canadian companies that will carry us to new leading edges in technology. We want to see what special provisions will be made to encourage Canadians to own and control their own companies. We do not believe that the Government has been correct in stating that the marketplace alone will dictate, and that we do not have a role to intervene or interfere. We believe that Canada can only be strong if it gets rid of the syndrome of selling off its best companies to foreigners. There is more foreign control in Canada than in any other developed country in the world.

We will continue to maintain our low levels of research and development, and exports, and keep selling off our new leading technology firms, such as Lumonics and Connaught, unless the Government recognizes the realities and acts for the benefit of Canadians. Unless the Minister is prepared to match his rhetoric today with concrete actions in the future, and unless the entire

Government is prepared to stand behind the policies to which the Minister has paid lip service, but for which he does not have the means, the programs which have already been cut will suffer even greater cuts, if we believe the officials in the Minister's Department. Unless the Government will look at the concept of creating a strong Canada—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski):** I regret that the Hon. Member's time expired approximately one minute ago. I would request that he conclude his remarks.

**Mr. Peterson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize to all Members for speaking over my time.

In conclusion, above all else we want the Government to stand up for Canada and to put Canada first.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor):** Mr. Speaker, this Bill comes before us and provides us with the opportunity to give an over-all assessment of the industrial policy and the regional development policy of the Government. In that sense, it is an important Bill with respect to broad areas of policy and broad areas of principle, despite the fact that in other respects it is simply a reorganization of the Department which is at issue.

Members of the New Democratic Party recognize the incredibly serious challenges which face the country in the industrial sector and in economic planning over the next 10 to 20 years. We are facing an international context which is becoming very much tougher for a country such as Canada.

In the immediate post-war period, having escaped World War II's direct damaging effect on our industrial infrastructure, Canada could expect to be a powerful and significant player in the international exchanges that are made economically throughout the world. On the basis of that, and on the basis of the tremendous resource exports that we developed in the period after World War II, for a far too brief period of time Canada achieved a level of full employment which gave to the people a sense of security, and a sense that their lives could be built without the constant threat of being dismissed, or being faced with shutdowns or disruption to their lives which would force them in turn to disrupt their families and their communities.