

*Taxation*

These problems had become apparent in what had been the industrial heartland of the country for years, but primarily of the Ontario milieu. In Hamilton we had in place a series of different sized industries dealing with diverse commodities, all the way from the basic steel industry through to the manufacture of appliances. We made shoes, as I said last night. We had every conceivable kind of industry which, by virtue of the structure of the municipality, seemed to guarantee, at least to the extent that one could guarantee it, a degree of economic stability. We had diversified industry. We had the rubber industry, we made hopper cars and we had the basic steel industry. We made fridges and stoves, shoes and clothes. We built homes and made the bricks. We had a port for shipping. We had a glass company which made all kinds of glassware. In other words, there could be no more diversified economy than the economy of the area I represent.

However, today, what do we find? I find that without exception, in every single sector of the economy, in every single company, there have been lay-offs at a level comparable to that of the 1930s. In some companies, 80 per cent of their employees have become unemployed. Companies which had been seen to be the major movers and shakers in the economy of Canada are looking ahead and seeing virtually nothing in terms of the opportunity for economic recovery.

I want Your Honour to know that when I listened to my constituents, I could not help but sense their frustration. I spoke to young people in high schools. I guess I met nearly 2,000 students over the course of four days. I spoke to them individually in the auditorium and answered their questions. I discussed the policy of the government and what we would offer as an alternative. Almost without exception, their main concern was about what would happen to them after they left school. They asked, "Where will the job opportunities be? Where will I go to work?" In one case I spoke to a student whose father had worked in the glass industry for 28 years, but who had become unemployed. His son asked me, "Where will I look? What would you suggest, Mr. Deans?" To be honest, I had nothing to suggest. This government has so undermined the economic fabric of the country and has so depressed the natural optimism of Canadians, that I could not really point to one industrial sector where there was buoyancy, a sense of optimism and an opportunity for growth.

I spoke with senior citizens in my constituency and they said to me, "Ian, I remember what it was like in the thirties. I was there. The symptoms are here again today." Those with money are extracting more and more from the economy but are putting less and less back in. There has been an undermining of the sense of co-operation which must exist in a country. They said to me that they are simply glad they are not facing the kinds of problems that their sons, daughters and grandchildren are facing. They do not think that this government has the will to solve those problems.

I do not want to suggest for one minute that the solution lies only with the government. I recognize that the solution requires action on the part of this government, the provincial governments and municipal governments to ensure that we do not waste any more money. However, we must also put the

available capital to good use so that there will be an opportunity for those who are now seeking it.

• (1530)

The primary responsibility for the problem rests four-square with this government. The solution may require a multifaceted approach. It will undoubtedly require a redevelopment of that sense of what it is to be a Canadian among Canadians. It will require us again to instil in Canadians the need to buy the things their neighbours make. It must be clear that when there is the option of buying something manufactured by your neighbour or friend or buying something manufactured in another part of the world, where they are of comparable quality, good economic common sense tells you that you would be better off in the long run to buy what is made in your own country.

That is what we must tell people if we want to see economic survival. They will participate. Why is this not being done now? Because they do not think the government knows what it is doing. They honestly do not believe the government knows. There is a sense of frustration, a feeling among people that they have a government that does not really care. The government has left the impression that it does not care about the effects of its policies on the average people. It gives them the right to create a further indebtedness. It gives them the right to borrow even more without any consideration for the effect it will have on working people from coast to coast. That is a miscarriage of responsibility. It is improper.

You, Mr. Speaker, are not in the position of voting. If you were, I am sure you would want to join with me in voting against the proposal put forward by this government. I feel confident that would be true.

The steel industry in Hamilton suffered a terrible blow. The government led it to believe a pipeline would be built. How well I remember just a year ago telling the government that the chance of that pipeline ever being built with private funds, given the many billions of dollars necessary, the economic conditions of the day and the high interest rates that had to be charged as well as the long period of time between the original investment and return on that investment, was pretty slim, at least during the last part of this century. Nevertheless the government went full steam ahead. It raised optimism without producing the goods. Then it heard that Alsands will not go ahead, or if it does it will be so diminished in size it will not produce the kind of economic recovery opportunity that everyone had anticipated.

The steel industry looks around and asks where it will go. In addition to those three major projects that would have provided some economic stimulus, we find that the automobile industry, to which the steel industry is closely tied, is in a recession because of imports and, to some extent, their own mismanagement. Nevertheless, it is seriously undermined. People will not buy automobiles because they cannot afford to pay 22 per cent interest at the bank or wherever they do their financing.