

make up Canada. Mr. Speaker, in the world we are entering a new era, characterized by a shortage of resources, and Canada is one of the biggest reservoirs of resources in the world. What are we doing to try to make Canadian resources benefit Canadians?

Do our huge resources contribute to create more jobs for Canadians? Do our resources contribute to lessen the pressures on the government budget to reduce taxes so that taxpayers take advantage of them? Is there a budgetary policy which would enable us to incur smaller deficits than we now have? To each of those three questions, Mr. Speaker, the answer is negative.

There is another factor in the industrial field throughout the world and it is the importance of semiconductors. We know quite well that it has now become the second largest industry in the United States. What is the position of Canada in that area? Those are some of the questions which remain unanswered. We have trading partners who are uncertain. And even after the budget speech, quite apart from the unbearable tax on fuel, there is no certainty. Even if there were a few adjustments, there is no more certainty than before. Why? Precisely because there is no comprehensive policy, there is no comprehensive plan. As for the fall in our growth, Mr. Speaker, it is a catastrophe.

Mr. Speaker, what we needed was a budget which would have helped us fight against unemployment and inflation, improve our deficit in the balance of payments and provide a true energy program. We expected incentives for large scale projects, which would have increased our chances of achieving our energy self-sufficiency. For instance, what did the budget say about the Bay of Fundy? Nothing at all. Eerily silent indeed it was about the north-south pipeline and the east-west pipeline. We were also expecting incentives for the manufacturing industry which would have improved the balance of payments so as to shore up that part of the commercial balance which represents the manufacturing sector.

Mr. Speaker, I have here quite eloquent charts for 1978 and 1979, but I would like to compare the months of September and October, 1979. While the value of our exports of finished products other than foodstuffs was roughly \$15 billion in September, 1979, the value of our imports in the same field for the same month is \$28.222 billion, which leaves us with a deficit of \$13.1 billion. Did that improve in October? In October our exports, always in non-edible finished products, were of \$17.166 billion and our imports in the same category were of \$31.669 billion for a deficit of \$14.5 billion for one month; for September and October the trading deficit for non-edible finished products increased by \$1.5 billion. The Minister of Finance was strangely silent on this question which, by itself, would warrant an emergency debate in the House, emergency measures and an emergency program. Our problems are balance of payments problems and our huge budgetary deficits are caused by high unemployment rate. It is

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because of these deficits that we must bear such high interest rates which are close to being highway robbery. What was announced? We are given a provincial budget. Having debated nine budgets at the Quebec National Assembly, I knew that by provincial jurisdiction, by what authority is given to the provinces, they are limited to fiscal power, and freedom of action is determined by fiscal power. The speech given by the Minister of Finance was an exact replica of the budget speeches given by provincial finance ministers. Because he restricted himself exclusively to the fiscal power. When I made up my mind to run in a federal election, I assumed that in the Parliament of Canada we would be able to look into problems as a whole, that the main economic levers under the constitution were in Ottawa and that in Ottawa also were extraordinary tools which, if used wisely, could set the Canadian economy in motion again, alter the course of our destiny, and that with the new powers now available, the federal government, instead of using its spending power to invade areas under provincial jurisdiction and thus restrict even more the fiscal powers of the provinces, would effectively look toward the future and make sure that the provincial governments are its true partners.

Instead of that, the new government has chosen to pursue the policy initiated by the former government and invaded a fiscal area which until then, with a possible exception in 1920, had been left to the provinces. And these same people are now blaming the government. They had the nerve—I certainly could use more violent words, Mr. Speaker—to move this motion. That motion should read:

And that this House unreservedly condemns the government for its outright betrayal of its election promises—

Mr. Speaker, this House condemns the government for its budget which will place an unfair and unnecessary burden of higher gasoline prices, higher fuel oil prices, and higher taxes on middle and lower income Canadians. Yet, Mr. Speaker, a great deal of care has been taken, great subtleness displayed and even great caution exercised in this matter not to blame the government on a specific point, namely the 25-cent tax, because the former government, the official opposition now trying to defeat the present government at any cost in the hope of replacing it—does not want to commit itself to withdrawing this tax if it ever gets back into power. The opposite side will naturally be accused of having imposed it. Yet they do not want to commit themselves, they act very carefully, very cautiously, very skilfully because they actually do intend to keep it. Let us be frank about it. I did not hear a single member of the Liberal party state in this House he was committing himself to withdrawing it.

Mr. Speaker, it is quite interesting to go back in the past and study the content of the various statements made by the ministers. I am referring to *Hansard* for July 2, 1975, page 7409. Mr. Turner, who was then finance minister, was speaking about the 10-cent energy tax imposed by the former government, the present official opposition which today pre-