

Income Tax

at Port Colborne is laying off workers because it cannot keep up its refining capacity?

There is only one logical conclusion, and that is that there is no strategy. The left hand does not know what the right hand is doing with respect to the various sectors of our economy. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce was very surprised to find out that the Japanese have had a temporary import tariff on processed nickel into Japan. At least the Japanese are well aware of the need to protect their refining sector with respect to nickel and copper. We in Canada seem to be the only ones in the world who believe in free trade. The Japanese have had a temporary tariff of 13 per cent on imported processed nickel for years now, yet we have no such tariff.

Then we have the spectre of Alcan closing down in St. Lawrence and laying off the whole work force of that town. The whole town is dependent on the Alcan mining company which closed down. Where did it go? It went to Mexico to get the fluorspar it needs for its operations in Canada. Who do you think owns the fluorspar mine in Mexico? Noranda. Mr. Powis admitted that Alcan had a contract with Noranda to buy fluorspar for use in Alcan's Canadian operations.

They must think we are the stupidest people this side of Wonderland. We have allowed them to prostitute us with respect to our resources. We have allowed it. It is not rape, because we have consented to it. We have allowed them to operate in any way they have wished. They shift capital around. And we have no currency control. We have Noranda and Falconbridge laying off workers, and yet those companies just entered into a contract with the Chilean junta to invest \$1 billion in Chile to exploit the copper resources there. We say that our currency can go wherever the multi-nationals want it to go.

This government is liable and culpably responsible for the unemployment problem in this country. The government opposite sits there in its arrogance, without responding to the need to say to corporations that the people elected a government, and that the government will set the rules and plan the economy for its people. The government should determine how these corporations are to operate within our system. The government has refused to take that kind of position.

Mrs. Pigott: There is a good company up in Timmins.

Mr. Rodriguez: The hon. member for Ottawa-Carleton (Mrs. Pigott) talks about Timmins. We have the Lang-Muir mine which just laid off 350 workers.

Mrs. Pigott: Not that one.

Mr. Rodriguez: It closed down completely.

Mrs. Pigott: What about the one Canada owns? We haven't had a lay-off there.

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Mr. Rodriguez: We have a Texas-Gulf operation in which the CDC owns shares.

Mrs. Pigott: We have not had a layoff there.

Mr. Rodriguez: Texas Gulf is coming. They are moving northward. It is obvious that the natural resources of this country are mortgaged against short-term political gains. One of the sad facts is that once this system gets going, we are caught up in the treadmill of giving and giving.

In 1976 we had a deficit as a result of Canadian funds flowing out of this country in direct investment abroad, mostly in mining. In effect, the government wants to balance that. The only way to do it is to encourage foreign investment in Canada. In effect what we do is get caught in the vicious circle of encouraging more foreign ownership in the economy and all that it entails. The minister can nod her head from behind the curtain like a Punch and Sauvé show.

I was on a T.V. program recently—

Mrs. Holt: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of order. Considering the conditions in this House, the bright lights and the noise, I would like to move a motion that we have a quorum of one in this House because this is very hard on us.

Mr. Alexander: What kind of nonsense is this?

Mrs. Holt: I thought maybe the present speaker could stay to make his speech. He has been going on very long. I think he has gone beyond his time.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I am sure the hon. member would miss the hon. lady. Maybe we should carry on the way we are doing.

Mr. Rodriguez: That is typical of the arrogance of Liberal members. When the heat gets too much, they want to leave the kitchen. That is the Liberal coward's way out. I was on a program the other day with the hon. member for Matane (Mr. De Bané).

Mrs. Holt: On a question of privilege, Mr. Speaker, the hon. member said something about our place being in the kitchen. One of the members suggested that our place is in the kitchen. I think we are doing very well in the House of Commons and can do without that kind of chauvinist remark.

Mr. Rodriguez: I will repeat my remark. I said that is typical of the arrogance of Liberal members, and whenever it gets too hot they want to get out of the kitchen. If the hon. lady does not see herself in the kitchen, that is fine. She can stay here and participate in the debate.

I was on a program not very long ago with the hon. member for Matane, a Liberal member. In response to a question by the interviewer as to what can be done about the economy, he said in a very doleful manner that there is nothing that can be done because the government has lost the will to do anything about the economic problems of this country. At least there is one honest Liberal.

As if to confirm that, on Wednesday, November 16, the Minister of Finance responded to a question from my leader,