

*Industry, Science and Technology*

Another issue to which we take great exception concerns the Government's inability, or its hypocrisy, in terms of dealing with another major economic issue for the future. I refer to the whole issue of sustainable development. Sustainable development has been recognized by the Brundtland Commission, by environmentalists throughout the world and by the Government in its Throne Speech, as well as in declarations by the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Bouchard). They have said that the environment will be considered in every Department. It will be on the agenda at the Cabinet table when everything is considered, including economic development.

What was their response when the Hon. Member for Ottawa South (Mr. Manley) proposed a couple of days ago to this House that part of Bill C-3 concerning the mandate of the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology include a simple mandate to ensure that the economic implications be considered, along with the environmental considerations of development? He simply wanted a recognition of what the Government has been calling for in its pious statements here in Canada and around the world as it accepts awards which must now to the donors appear hollow. Why? If they had to give those awards again to our Prime Minister, they would take them back. They were hypocritical. They would not allow the simple mention of the environment in this particular Bill.

Another area with respect to which we on this side of the House have difficulties in terms of the Government's approach to future economic development in Canada is the regions of Canada. We on this side of the House believe that Canada cannot be strong economically unless every one of its regions is strong economically. We proposed a simple amendment. As a matter of fact, I commend the Tory back-bencher who proposed it. It is a simple amendment which states that in considering economic development for Canada the interests of the regions and fair treatment be taken into consideration. It is innocuous. Give them an equitable share. Treat them fairly at the table when economic development is being considered. Why did the Government refuse to allow such a simple measure to go into a Bill? While it may not be an important consideration to the Government, what about the people in Canada who are disadvantaged, including the people in northern Ontario where the 15

per cent tax on softwood has caused seven mills to close and 2,000 people to be laid off already?

• (1550)

At the time we debated the constitutional amendments, we included a provision for fair economic treatment of our regions. The Government makes pious declarations about treating the regions fairly, but it does not even include mention of the need for regions to be supported in this particular Bill.

The Government also refused to deal with labour market adjustment in the Bill. When the Macdonald Commission recommended free trade, it set as a priority before entering into free trade the implementation of programs to provide for the massive readjustment and training that will take place because of the dislocation caused by free trade.

It has not been quite six months since free trade came into effect and we have already seen at least 25,000 Canadian workers laid off. Has there been one provision to allow for labour market adjustment? Has the Government entered into one program to help the industries where people have been laid off because manufacturing has been transferred to the United States? Absolutely not. The Government would not even allow mention of the need to have labour market adjustment programs in place to help our workers be retrained and to find the new jobs which even the Government admits they would have to find because of the adjustments that would be necessary under the Free Trade Agreement.

Another cause for concern in this legislation is the question of control over Canada's economic destiny. Will that control lie in the hands of Canadians, or will it be conceded to any foreign company that wants to buy Canadian companies?

Let us consider why ownership and control in Canada is important. First, Canada has the highest level of foreign ownership of any nation in the world. Fully 47 per cent of our jobs in manufacturing are foreign controlled, and 34 per cent of all our industries are foreign controlled. Some may say: "So what?" We know from all the studies that have been done over the years that if the real head offices are not in Canada, the top jobs are not in Canada. The decisions about which branch plants are closed are not made in Canada for the benefit of Canadians, they are made abroad for the benefit of foreign headquarters.