

The Address—Mr. Langdon

and bargaining power where we can use it in building an efficient, modern manufacturing sector that can meet our present needs and expand our exports and our jobs. In this kind of small economy, it means seeing that the Government plays an important role as the catalyst, just as is the case in Japan, Holland, Sweden and Italy.

What priorities do we see for this exercise of government leadership? First, we think there have been some interesting examples in this country in the last few years of business and labour working together to suggest new directions for particular sectors. One of the sectors in which this has been done most dramatically is the automobile sector.

I have with me today the report of the federal Task Force on Automotive Strategy for Canada. We feel that it is crucially important that the Government proceed on the recommendations of this task force, first because this is such a key sector in the Canadian economy, and second because it is a fascinating example of employers and workers getting together and working creatively to give us some sense of new direction. This is an excellent example of the kind of co-operation of which the Government has been speaking. It is also important to the jobs of the people not only of Essex-Windsor but of many different parts of the country. The automobile industry is no longer concentrated simply in Ontario but includes activities in British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Quebec and other provinces.

We feel that it is crucial to proceed on the recommendations of this task force report in the following way. First, we should set up the automotive council called for by the report. The previous government said a number of times that it intended to set up that council but it never in fact proceeded to do so. Second, we feel that the commitment of this report to Canadian content in the auto industry should be put into effect immediately. Third, we feel that the present import quotas on Japanese automobiles coming into this country should be maintained and strengthened as a bargaining tool to achieve that Canadian content goal. If all of this takes place, it is quite clear that we will be talking about creating 40,000 to 50,000 new jobs in this country.

Second, Mr. Speaker, we need a flexible financial framework to assist other industries as well as the automotive sector to modernize, to restructure and to expand into new product areas so that they can meet the difficult competition to be faced on the 1980s and the 1990s. As for ourselves as a Party, we believe that this requires a shift from the tax write-offs which have been the method of operation in the past. However, we also feel that the program for industrial and regional development which was adopted in the last Parliament was a useful initiative in the kind of direct interaction between government and the private sector that we need to reach our goals.

● (1150)

Third, we believe we need initiatives at the community level. Here I would like, Mr. Speaker, to endorse the initiatives which have been taken by the Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald), to establish constituency

advisory boards for the Canada Works Program. Certainly in our constituency this will provide a useful way to receive community input on ideas and suggestions for the future.

Fourth, we believe there must be further efforts to expand certain key sectors in our economy, and we think here particularly of the machine manufacturing sector. The CDIC, which the Government now seems to be committed to winding up, was about to be used as a vehicle to do that in the case of mining machinery. We would seriously urge the Government to look again at the issue of selling Eldorado Nuclear Limited to see if it could not be used instead as a vehicle to help move us into the manufacturing of mining equipment here in Canada.

We are no longer talking, Mr. Speaker, about a clean slate on the Government side. It has started to take initiatives and those initiatives now must be judged. It seems to me that the initiatives that have been taken this past week in fact have taken this Government off in the wrong direction with respect to industrial policy. Nothing shows this more seriously than the cuts made in the industrial and regional development program for next year. Details have now been provided by the Minister of Regional and Industrial Expansion (Mr. Stevens) who has indicated that \$525 million will be cut over the next three years for this program of partnership with the private sector.

The details of these cuts have now been given to us by the Minister and there are five key and dangerous program changes which have been made. First, no more modernization and expansion support will be provided to industries in half of this country, including the Cities of Toronto, Hamilton, Halifax, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Verchères, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver. All of these cities could previously receive help; it is now no longer possible with these changes. In short, Mr. Speaker, where the industry is, support will not be given. I feel that says dangerous things about the possibilities of modernization and expansion of our industrial base in this country.

Second, there will be no more help for business climate studies. We in Windsor, for instance, used such help to improve the response time for small tool and die makers who are aiming to adjust to new technological innovations. Cuts will hit other similar parts of the country.

Third, all tourism projects have been cut. I should tell Hon. Members of the Conservative caucus that many of these tourism projects are in important parts of the country which they now represent, including New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario.

Fourth, all levels of support for anything have been cut throughout the country, by half for most projects, by one-third for projects which deal with innovations.

Fifth—and this is most crucial of all, in my view—every single restructuring project in the industrial sector has been cut out of possible support. That is where a firm wants to invest to adjust to changing competitive conditions or to produce new or more competitive products or services. That is