

RCMP in the same high regard as I, would make such a charge, which can only create more confusion in the minds of the public as to parliament's attitude toward the RCMP.

As critic for northern development for the official opposition, I had hoped that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce would have made some comment with respect to what plans his department has to ease economic problems in the Northwest Territories. I know he is aware of the problems that are facing the small businessman and the labour force in that area because, according to news reports that I read of his trip to the north, he seemed to indicate a certain feeling for the north, and certainly he expressed concern for their problems.

Assistance could be by way of tax incentives or programs which may be instituted by his department, and I am sorry the minister is not here this evening. I hope, Mr. Speaker, that the minister will hold discussions with the new Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Faulkner) as well as with the Minister of Finance to see what steps can be taken to alleviate the severe economic depression that is facing business in the Mackenzie valley.

In concluding my remarks, I would like to say that Canada has possibly the greatest potential of any country in the world. However, potential, whether it be resources, manpower or otherwise, is of no value if we do not have leadership—leadership that would instil a sense of pride of country in Canadians from coast to coast; leadership that will create an economic climate that will give businessmen, both large and small, the confidence to invest in this great country and to create jobs, not only for the vast number of unemployed, but for the many youth who graduate each year from school and who, at the present time, face the future without much hope. We do not have that type of leadership at the present time and there is no indication that there will be any change in the foreseeable future. Canada has the potential. This bill, which has been called a mini-budget by the Minister of Finance, will do very little, if anything, I am afraid, to improve the situation.

Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West): Mr. Speaker, at the outset may I say that if in the context of my remarks I should wander from the subject, or in some way say something to which the Chair takes exception, I hope that Your Honour will draw it to my attention. I would also hope that in drawing it to my attention I would apologize with better grace than that which was demonstrated this afternoon by the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) when he was found to be out of order, when he was found to have made a statement which was not founded on fact. I expect that kind of bad grace and ill form from the Prime Minister, but not, Sir, from any other member of the House, and I want that on the record.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Brisco: Having witnessed that astounding performance I should now like to participate in the debate on Bill C-11.

In my view, Bill C-11 is a reflection of the tax policies of the government as it confronts industry and the provinces. One

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area of confrontation, which goes back to the era of 1974, has been in the area of mining taxation, where clearly the provinces have a basic right to tax. But with the federal government putting in its oar, and with the former minister of finance, John Turner, being bloody minded and determined to confront the provinces, we are witnessing taxation of the mining industry of both British Columbia and Ontario to the tune of 110 per cent. Now we hear complaints from the government side that that industry is not doing its fair share, is not carrying the load and is not being a good citizen. In terms of INCO, we have heard that they have not been good citizens, but that is in another framework and another context.

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The mining industry, by its very nature, is of a type and kind which requires a great deal of time in order to gear up and get that locomotive of industry rolling. It takes time to develop prospects. It takes money to prospect, and it takes a great deal of skill. Canadians have withdrawn from confidence in the mining community, as a result of the tax burden this government inflicted on the mining industry. Canadians can see little profit in supporting their home grown industries through the purchase of stocks when the mining industry is being taxed up to a level of 110 per cent in some cases, that is, on the basis of the tax policies by this government.

Mining is not the only industry to be singled out by the government. This afternoon I listened to the President of the Treasury Board (Mr. Andras) talking about our gross national product. I was a little disappointed that he did not touch on the forest industry, a massive industry in terms of GNP contributions, more so than the mining industry and the agricultural industry combined. This industry is massive because of the enormous amount of timber available across this land. By far the majority of our square miles is comprised of timber. Here we have an industry which has the support of the government in the form of regressive taxation and also in the form of a total lack of a national forest policy! There is absolutely no forest policy for Canada's first industry.

The other day I read the remarks of the senator who at one time was the minister responsible for fisheries, forestry and the environment, Senator Marchand. He stated in an address to a standing committee that the Economic Council of Canada had expressed concern over the fact that Canada did not have a forest policy. He felt it should address itself to that. He hoped that the incoming minister responsible for the environment would adopt and have an opportunity to introduce a national forest policy.

We have had four ministers of the environment, and we now have a Minister of State for the Environment (Mr. Marchand), who has gone on record as saying that he thinks we should be doing something for the forest industry. Sir, that is sheer arrant rhetoric of the most shallow nature, because he knows that this government reduced the budget for the forest service of Canada by \$2 million last year. He knows that the minister responsible for the environment, for fisheries and forestry, said to the standing committee last year that we do