

or if we did away with the GST. What Informetrica did not look at was that there would be some sort of shock about that which would affect investment in Canada. Therefore the assumptions about investments were far too rosy. We are just two economists talking. That is my problem with the Informetrica review. It overlooked those important realities.

Something else is that one can be an agnostic about free trade and agnostic about the GST. In other words, one is either for it or against it. Even if one is agnostic one has to admit that if a government actually did away with those two things there would be reverberations immediately in international financial markets which could plunge the country into a tremendous recession. That is what the plan completely overlooked. I do not fault the NDP for trying to come up with policies but that is my big problem with what it has done.

On the CAEDS program—and I am kind of fortunate because a lot of ministers have to stand and talk about how they had to freeze this and freeze that—the two things that have been indulged most by the government have been aboriginal spending and science and technology spending. I am responsible for both the CAEDS program and science and technology. There is never enough for hon. members opposite, I understand, but the CAEDS program was very generously increased, and it was made permanent.

The cutback the member talked about was through CEIC. It was not for the CAEDS program but for a different program. It was an economic development program. It is not the program that really creates small businesses on and off reserves, which is my program and which has not been cut back. There is a lot of pressure on that program because we have so many applications. We have three great boards that give me a lot of good advice, aboriginal people who give us great advice on how to create small and medium-sized businesses. They really decide who gets funded. It is not me.

We have three times the applications, as we sit here, as we had five years ago, even in the middle of a recession. That program has been generously funded. I am proud that our government has done that. I will always be proud the aboriginal people have been looked after as

generously as possible by our government, even in the midst of this recession.

I think it is acknowledged by the CAEDS board that we have done that. The CAEDS board would like twice as much money because they are so many applications, but we have funded this program generously, if not more generously than any other program the federal government delivers.

Mr. Stan Keyes (Hamilton West): Mr. Speaker, the minister makes some astute observations and he is absolutely right. The NDP motion we are debating today is negative, unqualifying and unconstructive but most obviously uncompromising. Says the self-professed professor: "What are missing are the alternatives".

• (1715)

I give the minister opposite the opportunity to possibly correct the record because alternatives have been put to the government. I dare say that on almost every bill brought before this House, like the GST, the FTA, the immigration and the UI bills, the opposition has proposed alternatives. It has proposed credible suggestions which seek to improve any one of the bills aforementioned. They are called amendments.

An hon. member: Oh, oh.

Mr. Keyes: The hon. member for Burlington sits there and squawks and grunts, but the reality is that the alternatives are put there in the form of amendments. They are the suggestions of the opposition to facilitate a bill that in our opinion make a better piece of legislation.

To no one's surprise what happens to the majority of these amendments, the constructive useful suggestions put forward on any government bill, is that they are defeated. They are voted down by the government time after time. I have sat here for over four and a half years and have witnessed this each time an amendment was brought forward.

That is what a suggested alternative is. It is called an amendment to the bill. Anyone can pick up a copy of *Hansard* or can call or write their MPs to ask for any copy of *Hansard* over the last four and a half years. We will get copies for them and they will see that suggestions have been put forward. However members of the government, in particular the member for Burlington and the professor himself, have stood and said no to the suggestions