

projects and programs. I remember very well that when the present Minister of Employment and Immigration (Miss MacDonald) and others were in opposition, they used to ask the then government: What are your objectives? What are your targets? How long is it going to be before you bring unemployment down from 11 per cent to 9 per cent, 5 per cent or 4 per cent? They used to get very upset when the government would not set targets. Well, we are seeing the same thing from this Government today. It has set targets for the deficit but we have not seen any target setting for unemployment. I suggest Members opposite tell the Canadian people where they are planning to go.

I believe job creation should be the main focus of this Parliament and this Government. More jobs for young people, women and small business. I have already mentioned agriculture. One can mention forestry, where we need a lot of research and development. That is another area where the Government is cutting back. Single industry towns must be diversified. We must put more money into shipbuilding. We must have tax reform. As I said before, there are a lot of people not paying any taxes at all, or who are not paying their fair share. If we had tax reform, we could collect several hundreds of millions of dollars from the rich and put that money into job creation for the ordinary citizens of Canada. I believe those are things that can and should be done if we are to create jobs for each and every single person in this country today.

We in this country, Mr. Speaker, indeed right across the western world, are going through quite a change in the way our society is organized. We are in the process of moving from the industrial society into the post-industrial or information era. We are going to have to make sure that we spend more money on research and development. We have to spend more money on developing our computer and other high technology industries than we have in the past. Otherwise we will fall further and further behind.

Look at the trend, Mr. Speaker. In the United States in the 1970s some 90 per cent of new jobs were in the non-goods producing area. Only about 10 per cent were in the traditional areas of manufacturing, agriculture and forestry. That type of thing is happening in this country as well. As we move into this kind of society, the important thing will be brain power and knowledge. Yet we see a financial statement here last night which is cutting back on research and development. It will not put as much money into job retraining and upgrading of skills, not just for our young people but for all Canadians. I think that is going in exactly the wrong direction.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to see a government which has a little bit of imagination to do a little bit of planning; a government which will try with the provinces, labour, farmers and business to sit down and develop some national goals and objectives. Ask ourselves what we can do as Canadians and do well. Pick three or four areas that we can do well in, become world leaders and experts in, and I will suggest just three or four of them this afternoon.

We are one of the greatest agricultural nations in the world. There is no reason we should not be producing more agricul-

tural machinery and equipment. We import most of our agricultural machinery from abroad. I think we should be putting more money into that sector so that we can start producing more of that machinery ourselves, thereby creating jobs for Canadians and exporting to other parts of the world.

Another area is that of resources. We are very abundantly blessed with all kinds of resources, yet over 80 per cent of the mining machinery we use in our mines is imported from other countries. I think that has to be changed. There is no reason we could not specialize in mining machinery and equipment to be used in our mines and also export it abroad as well.

A third area is that of communications. We are a vast country and communications is one area we should concentrate on and specialize in, in order to become world leaders in communications equipment and devices.

Another area is that of transportation. This is something that the Hon. Member for Regina West (Mr. Benjamin) has spoken about many times in this House. There is no reason in the world that we should not be in the forefront of technology in transportation. Yet it is not Canada that develops a lot of the more modern trains and transportation vehicles. The fastest trains in the world are in France and Japan, not here in Canada.

These are just four areas where we are naturals to become world leaders, which would create jobs through exports to other countries around the world. There are a lot of other things that one can mention in this debate, a lot of ideas that could be tossed into the hopper concerning jobs. We could be cleaning up our environment and creating jobs at the same time. We could be building a lot more houses, investing more money in people, health education, and creating jobs all at the same time.

We should also be looking at job security legislation because a lot of workers do not feel there is very much security in this high-tech age. We can look to countries in Europe such as Germany, Norway and Sweden and the legislation they have covering job security and protection. We could be doing that as well. We should also be looking at processing more of our raw materials in Canada, as well as asserting ourselves more economically so that we make sure that we make the economic decisions which are important to this country. At present more of our economy is foreign owned than is that of any other country in the world. That, Mr. Speaker, not only causes us to lose some political autonomy, but causes us to lose jobs as well. I see my time is up.

● (1500)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Questions or comments? The Hon. Member for Western Arctic (Mr. Nickerson).

Mr. Nickerson: I have one question I would like to address to the Hon. Member. I found his presentation to be excellent. It was presented in a non partisan way and had some very good ideas attached to it. I would like to ask about the last point he made on the processing of resources in Canada. That is something which everybody, I am sure, would like to see