

Government Orders

Let us take a look at Canadian market shares of major export markets. We seem to be hanging our hat completely on the U.S. market. In 1988 it accounted for 73.1 per cent of all our exports. We probably could not compete with the Japanese because they are responsible for about 6.3 per cent of our exports. The U.K. is responsible for 2.6 per cent; China, 1.9 per cent; West Germany, 1.3 per cent, virtually all of them in resource-based industries, not in manufacturing or consumer goods.

The merchandise trade balance, which will be a reflection of our competitiveness, which will be a reflection of the government's ability to indicate and establish an economic environment that is good for all Canadians both on an industrial and an unemployment side, has been dropping steadily with respect to the United States, so much so that in 1988, as a comparison with 1985, we have dropped a grand total of 5 per cent.

Compared with Japan we have been collapsing steadily. Compared with the U.K. we have made absolutely no progress. There is a negative drop of 1.1 per cent. China is the only major economic environment with which we have any kind of positive growth, 1.6 per cent growth. Compared with West Germany we have dropped our share of the market by -2 per cent. Those kinds of facts tell us quite frankly that we are not going anywhere and we are going there fast. Let us talk in terms of developing language, which most of these countries recognize is important to preparing not only their labour market but also their managerial class, because this is becoming increasingly a global market-place both for labour and industry.

Canada in terms of gross expenditures on all official government programs—and keep in mind that much of this is in the official languages sector—contributes a paltry \$7 million. The United States contributes \$170 million.

Keep in mind that their market-place is only 10 times the size of ours. Their contribution should have been somewhere around \$70 million, but no, it is \$170 million. The Americans, despite the downturn in their economy, their loss of position all over the world in terms of progressiveness, are at least capable of understanding. In

terms of language perhaps they increased the competitiveness of their peoples.

West Germany contributed \$39.2 million. Australia, a smaller country than our own, yet it appears more competitive, spent \$12.4 million on languages. Japan, a great monolithic, hegemonic nation which does not have all of the opportunities that our own country provides us with, a multicultural fabric, spent \$96.2 million. Where does Canada sit? In last place.

I am absolutely ashamed that our government would not recognize that Canadians have to be provided with the opportunity and the leadership to be able to take their role and their proper position in this world.

Let us take a look at education, for example, in terms of percentage change in government inputs. I know what the members opposite are going to say right now: "Oh well, education, that's not our business, that's provincial stuff and in fact we can't do anything about it". With the same breath the government turns around and says that with this bill it is going to take some moneys from premiums. It is going to tax people and, on a national basis, establish training programs.

Okay, we are going to establish training programs. We like that. With whom? "Oh well, that is not our business. We have to defer it to the appropriate provincial authorities. They have to take a look at what is available and what is not available and we just buy into the programs".

I cannot believe that this passes for serious government policy. I cannot believe that at a time when most other nations in the world are taking an initiative on a national basis to educate the public, to educate the entrepreneurial class, their managerial class, Canada sits down and says: "Well, you know, I have to wash my hands of this, that is really not my job. That is not in my jurisdiction. We don't have any money". I cannot believe that that passes for political and juridical leadership.

In terms of government inputs in education Canada, since 1986, decreased by 4 per cent. In 1987 there was a further decrease of 3 per cent. In 1988 a further decrease of 3 per cent. For 1989 we establish consistency without all doubt; there is a further decrease of 3 per cent, absolutely incredible.