

world automotive trade as one of simply assembling American automobiles.

If I may digress a little further on this one important topic, I would like to mention that our already high unemployment rate, now approaching 15 per cent, is further aggravated by the lack of specifically trained workers not only in the automobile industry but in the marine industry as well. Both are continually seeking in Europe the highly-skilled workers needed to carry out certain specific technical functions. I find it odd that we should be recruiting overseas in times of such high unemployment at home. Surely we should be training the young people and upgrading middle age workers through apprenticeship programs to meet the needs of our developing technologies. Surely we should be anticipating the future needs of these industries. This kind of training was one important focus of the Conservatives' youth employment program outlined in the former minister of finance's budget. Niagara College, our local community college, is ready, available and just seeking government assistance and community support to enter into such a training program.

I have already mentioned the city of St. Catharines as being the "Garden City" of Canada. This is partly due to the fact that our city is surrounded by the most productive fruit and grape growing lands in the whole of Canada. As a result of the importation of different vine strains from Europe, grape growers have greatly improved the quality of our local grapes, and the wine industry is assuming increasing importance in our region. Typically, however, the improved wines have been making greater headway in foreign markets than they have right here in this country where the old Canadian adage "if it is imported, it must be better" still prevails.

The delighted reaction to our wines at a wine tasting reception held here on the Hill last fall was ample proof that we do not have to beg Canadians humbly to "buy Canadian"; we simply have to convince them to "try Canadian", and our work will be done. Three years ago there was not one Canadian wine on the top ten best sellers list in Canada. Today I am proud to say that two of the five top best sellers here in Canada are Canadian wines.

The fruitlands surrounding our area have proved to be a mixed blessing to our municipality. Efforts to preserve this productive land have been put to severe restraints by the urban growth and development of St. Catharines. Therefore, existing industries are not being expanded and new industries are being established elsewhere. The young, seeing little employment future locally, are leaving their home communities to find work elsewhere.

We have in St. Catharines a community of conflicts: the second most satisfied city dwellers of Canada, and a declining growth rate; a city with a well above average standard of living and one of the highest unemployment rates in Canada; and a community with great industrial potential and an actual no-growth local economy. You see, Mr. Speaker, by a funny twist of fate the wealth of our region, which attracted so many originally, is now working against its growth and prosperity.

#### *The Address—Mr. Joe Reid*

It is easy for others in Ontario and elsewhere to speak out for the importance of the preservation of our fruitlands. We too believe this is important. This government must play an active, positive role if it wishes to preserve these fruitlands against the pressures of urban growth and development.

I feel that by the election of the Conservative party last May the people of Canada expressed their concerns about the economic dilemma in which Canada found itself at that time. When the minister of finance of that government presented his budget to Parliament last December, he did so knowing that a combined program of government fiscal restraint and long-term energy planning was the only way out of this dilemma. He knew that the government and the economy would be increasingly paralysed if the \$11 billion budgetary deficit were not controlled and reduced. He knew that without a long-term energy policy the \$9 million per day which the Canadian government was paying to subsidize oil could, under OPEC control and in the light of known Canadian oil sources, only increase dramatically. He knew that inflation must be curbed at all costs, even if the short-term cost meant a higher rate of interest.

That budget did not, however, forget those who would be hardest hit by the immediate impact of these measures; the mortgage holder, the small businessman, the farmer, the fisherman, and families with incomes less than \$21,000.

If the Speech from the Throne and the mini-budget shortly following it are any indication, and they should be, it seems we can expect very much of the same kind of short-term policies, with no concrete plan of attack to begin reducing the national deficit, and no long-term energy policy to ensure Canada's energy future. For the most part the government offers only vague solutions to some problems, and measures intended to cushion Canadians from the impact of others which they feel are too tough to face—today, that is.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the government's proposal for an all new, all Canadian blended oil price. All this jargon means is that instead of paying for the oil increase at the gas pumps, Canadians will be paying it in their taxes.

What worries me is that if the real cost of oil does not hurt the Canadian's pocketbook at the gas pump, Canadians who are the greatest consumers of energy in the world will be encouraged to go on wasting imported and domestic oil.

What the government should be doing is providing policies and incentives to industry to develop quickly not only fuel efficient cars, as I mentioned before, but actual new types of fuel and corresponding engines.

Before closing I would like to touch on a very vital area, an area which was absolutely excluded from the throne speech. I have in mind the question of the environment. There are two environmental issues of particular concern to the St. Catharines region. One is the effects of acid rain; the other is the continuing pollution of the Niagara River.

Solutions to both problems are made more difficult by reason of our proximity to the United States. That great industrial segment of the U.S. is just over the river and across