

I suggest that we should make practical efforts to solve these problems. Instead of shipping our gas to the United States at cheap rates, we ought to be producing fertilizer or other ethylene products and shipping them to the United States or other markets. As it is, we in Canada cannot compete with products which have been made in the United States from our natural products. To allow this to continue, I suggest, is not an adequate solution. This situation is causing some of our problems, among which is a lack of secondary industry and consequent lack of employment in Canada. I suggest, again, that in this respect we have a vested political interest in Calgary and Alberta. In that area Canadians are working against their own self-interests. By encouraging the export of natural gas and oil to the United States they are working against employment in Alberta.

I see that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) is back in his seat. I am glad, because I wish to talk about an item that I think relates to him. Before the recent crisis connected with the American dollar, the surtax, and so on, arose, I suggested that instead of having \$3.1 billion tied up in American funds we ought to buy some Japanese yen and Deutsch marks. If we had invested \$1 billion in Japanese yen we would have made 5 cents on the dollar. As it was, we lost that much by holding American funds.

The minister may well say that we have some international responsibility and that we are trying to protect and help the Americans in their attempt to establish their currency on a firm basis. This may be true. However, if the minister has to argue this way, then I suggest to him that when the Americans put their surcharge on imports from other nations, Canada should have been excluded. If you are going to horse-trade around, you should be good at it. I suggest that if the minister is going to horse-trade around with those down-east Yankees, he had better sharpen his pencil because in this particular deal we come out on the losing end.

**Mr. Alkenbrack:** You had better join the union.

**Mr. Thomson:** If the government wants to gamble with our money, which is what it does when it holds large amounts of American currency, it should have obtained a better deal from the American government when a crisis like this came along. I am the last to suggest that we want to wreck the American economy. We realize that that economy is important to us, that we have international responsibilities, and so on. Yet it seems to me that the Canadian government and the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, as well as the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson), have some responsibility to the Canadian people in looking after our interests. It is high time they paid more attention to what is happening and to what might happen when looking after our money.

I do not want to prolong the debate. There are only one or two ideas that I want to leave with the House. I suggest that the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce should—

**An hon. Member:** Resign.

**Mr. Thomson:** Well, I would not quite suggest that.

### *Employment Support Bill*

**An hon. Member:** There is nobody better over there.

**Mr. Thomson:** I would not suggest that he resign because I do not think there is anybody better over there.

**Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre):** Some are worse.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Thomson:** At any rate, we are in an awkward position. May I suggest something else to the minister and to the government. Too often we in Canada—by that I mean the government of Canada—leave things until a crisis develops. For example, we introduced the Opportunities for Youth program last spring because even in March we knew that a great many of our youth would be unemployed. The government said, "Let us introduce a crash program to solve the problem, it will do some of the things we want." Similarly, the crisis in the international field was growing and the government seemed to be unaware of it. Then all at once it happened, and now we have introduced a crash program involving \$80 million in an attempt to solve a particular problem.

There is too much short-term planning. In addition to anything the government or the people on that side of the House could use, they could use a little vision as to what might happen the day after tomorrow; they should not just be concerned about today and tomorrow. It is high time somebody sat up and took notice of what is going on in the world around us, particularly since we deal in the international field and there are serious problems connected with international trade. After all, a great deal of our industry is tied to this base.

**Mr. Speaker:** Is the House ready for the question?

**Some hon. Members:** Question.

**Mr. Speaker:** All those in favour of the amendment to the main motion, will please say yea.

**Some hon. Members:** Yea.

**Mr. Speaker:** All those opposed will please say nay.

**Some hon. Members:** Nay.

**Mr. Speaker:** In my opinion the nays have it.

*And more than five members having risen:*

**Mr. Speaker:** Call in the members.

The House divided on the amendment (Mr. Saltzman) which was negatived on the following division:

• (3:40 p.m.)

YEAS  
Messrs:

Benjamin  
Blackburn  
Broadbent  
Burton  
Caouette  
Gauthier

Gilbert  
Gleave  
Harding  
Howard (Skeena)  
Knowles (Winnipeg  
North Centre)