

Private Members' Business

That is the argument they used years ago when they opposed the introduction of old age pensions. If you give anybody \$50 a month old age pension, went the argument at that time, they won't save for their own retirement. They argued that in a very real way, not only on the floor of the House of Commons, they even went so far as to take a delegation over to the Privy Council in Westminster, London, in the United Kingdom, to argue that what the federal government was trying to do at that time was unconstitutional under the British North America Act.

Mr. Fisher: The Tories did that?

Mr. Young (Beaches—Woodbine): The Tories did that. They have never supported pensions. They have never supported that kind of decency that other ordinary Canadians accepted years ago. They are still working at it.

I think it is totally unacceptable. I and other members of my caucus agree that there has to be pension reform. But it has to be real pension reform, not for those people in the \$100,000-a-year bracket. When you bring in this kind of pension reform that we see here today what the government is asking low and middle-income Canadians to do is to pay for it once again. I think that is unacceptable. We will not be supporting this legislation for that very same reason. I understand why many Canadians would be attracted to RRSPs. It is because there is an inadequate private public pension system to provide them with adequate pensions on retirement. I can understand that, and I have some sympathy for them.

I would make the argument that they would be far better off by putting pressure on that gang over there to bring in proper pension reform, to provide every Canadian with a decent level of retirement income at age 60 or age 65, or in many cases now as a result of the attacks of this government against VIA Rail, those older workers who may never find another decent paying job because of the kind of community they live in, very many of which are remote. Because of that they may never again be employed. That is a terrible thing to say in a country that is as rich as ours.

We may have to take a look at reforming the public pension system to provide for earlier retirement than at age 60, to provide for retirement at the age of 55, if you happen to be an older worker in that kind of community where the government has deprived you of a job in order

to provide that individual with an adequate support system.

I can see you are indicating to me that my time is up, Mr. Speaker. You have been extremely generous.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paproski): The hon. member will have 10 minutes in questions and comments if he would like to take it the next time the bill comes up in the House.

It being five o'clock, the House will now proceed to the consideration of Private Members' Business as listed on today's Order Paper.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—MOTIONS

[English]

INDUSTRY

IMPORT-REPLACEMENT PRODUCTION

Mr. Steven W. Langdon (Essex—Windsor) moved:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government should consult with industry and trade unions to develop measures to increase import-replacement production in Canada, particularly in the higher-technology sectors such as machinery production.

He said: Mr. Speaker, I will start out where my colleague has just finished in some senses, that is to point out that as we start the 1990s this country is facing serious economic problems. We are facing the problems in Atlantic Canada with a special force. We are seeing it in our fisheries with tremendous shut-downs of fish processing plants. These problems are not just in the fishing industry. The Prime Minister yesterday tried to suggest that it was only in the fisheries that Atlantic Canada faced serious problems. I have talked recently with steel producers in Cape Breton, in Sydney, who have told me that their workforce has shrunk in the past eight years from close to 4,000 workers to about 700 workers. It is likely that we will see significantly further increases take place. The same thing is happening in the coal industry, not just in Cape Breton but elsewhere in Atlantic Canada.

[Translation]

Not only the Atlantic provinces are facing the economic problems I just mentioned. We see the same thing happening in the province of Quebec. There are some very serious problems in the shipbuilding industry. Today for instance, there is a report in the paper about