

this country could use is a few more leaders. I intend to deal for a moment with some of the statements made by the Minister of Finance during his introduction of the bill, and during the many months of gesticulating, posturing, ranting and generally sounding-off when he could and should have actually been presenting this bill to the House.

The minister claims this is the first step taken by the government to develop a coherent set of new industrial policies, but certainly not the last. If this is the first step, I suggest that none of us who have already reached the ripe old age of 40 will be around to see the last. Those poor chaps who have already reached the advanced age of 50 may not be around to see the second step. As for the hon. member for Winnipeg North Centre (Mr. Knowles), at the rate we are going he may not see the completion of this first step.

Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre): Order.

Mr. Ellis: Does the minister not realize that decisions and actions in respect of industrial strategy must move more quickly, and that frequently a decision not taken today cannot be taken tomorrow? Our competitors in the industrial world make decisions quickly and the results are known long before the minister has made up his mind. We need a new industrial policy. We certainly do not have an industrial policy now, much less a confident, cohesive strategy. The lack of such a strategy becomes more and more evident as the days go by and we drift aimlessly from crisis to crisis.

● (1610)

The country with probably the greatest resource wealth in the world, the greatest potential for developing that resource wealth into a livelihood for all our citizens now and for growth in the years to come, is overshadowed by other countries who drain off our resources with the willing assistance of this government. They then peddle the finished goods back to Canada, again with the assistance of the government under the guise of keeping a balance of trade, a balance against those raw materials which we just exported.

The minister talks of protecting millions of jobs and developing many more new jobs. Yes, an industrial strategy well thought out and properly applied would do just that, but this sham that has been presented to us is not an industrial strategy; it is merely a reduction in a percentage rate of taxation which will benefit a small portion of the economy, while at the same time adding to the taxation of the balance of the economy, because the over-all cost of government is not going to go down as a result of this measure. If the minister had brought in a recommendation or a proposal that would have reduced the cost of government by 9 per cent, then every single person, every single manufacturing industry, every single service industry, every business of every type would have benefited equally. The minister talks of making more secure another two million jobs. Are these extra jobs not equally important and should not the service industries of which he speaks be granted equal relief from the onerous tax burden that they bear? Frequently the service industries employ, relatively speaking, per dollar invested and dollar turnover

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more people than do the manufacturers and processors. Despite what the minister said, in my opinion they are more vulnerable.

Look for a moment if you will, Mr. Speaker, at the situation described in the House by the hon. member for Parry Sound-Muskoka (Mr. Darling) a short while ago. He said that hundreds of small businessmen in the tobacco and confectionery wholesale field were, in a very carefully planned manner, being forced into bankruptcy by giants in the field who, because of vertical integration, are also manufacturers and processors and who will benefit by this legislation.

The minister blames the monetary problems around the globe for this situation. Does he not believe that this country could finally come of age and handle its own problems, without worrying quite so much about the monetary problems around the globe? Could we not for a change be leaders in this field? Could we not for a change determine our own destination, or would that require too much leadership, something which this government lacks?

We have been promised this legislation since May, 1972, with all the promises of extra jobs, and so on. We have been told on not one but dozens of occasions that this legislation had top priority. After two budget speeches, and uncounted speeches in between, we now know how long this has taken to come to pass. In addition, the minister has promised an examination of capital cost allowances by 1974. I appeared before the then minister of finance, the Hon. Edgar Benson, in 1969, representing an industry and asking for a review of capital cost allowances. I was promised by Mr. Benson at that time that the following year would produce such a review. I am not about to compare the two ministers of finance. I, personally, do not think there is much to choose between them. I suppose that the report and review, having been as long as it has in coming and likely to take a good deal longer to arrive than the promised date of 1974, when it does appear will probably be heralded as the second step of this promised industrial strategy.

The minister promised, in addition to many other things, a review of the Industrial Development Bank. This, by itself, would help in great measure to bring about an industrial strategy which would provide Canadians with jobs in Canadian industries. What is really needed is help in the financing of new business in Canada, help in providing incentives for Canadian ownership of existing businesses, help in making sure that businesses presently Canadian-owned do not become foreign owned. Special consideration should be given to measures to promote industrial growth in the Maritimes and in the western provinces, where much of our resource wealth is found and little is being done to create secondary industry. We need a recognition of the service industries.

In order to achieve some of these things, the policies presented by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Stanfield) should be adopted. We need an honest approach to these problems. Our position has been clearly stated on many occasions. The Minister of Finance has indicated his willingness to co-operate by providing a meaningful review procedure. I hope that this promise will be carried out. Like many of my colleagues, I have been active in municipal politics before entering this House. I was, among other