

The Budget—Mr. Perrault

tude of the government seems to be completely negative. They laugh it off. The ministers concerned are not even here. They take a back seat in external affairs.

On the subject of textiles, again, let us consider the Mexican deal. The hon. member for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador (Mr. Peddle) raised the question the other day because he is concerned about paper products. The Mexicans were exporting more textiles to this country than they were allowed, so the government decided to impose a surcharge. The Mexicans, in turn, placed restrictions on the import of paper products. So the decision was reversed; the Canadian government changed its mind and allowed the textile imports to continue.

The textile industry has been seeking a policy statement from the government for several years, without result. Each year the situation is allowed to get worse. One of these days the textile industry will have to be told either to go ahead or to close up. I wish the government would make this decision now so that we would know what to do. If it decides the factories will have to close their doors, the Canadian people will determine what attitude to take. Let me point out that these textile mills are located for the most part in designated areas. There are many in the province of Quebec. The hon. member for Saint-Hyacinthe (Mr. Ricard) has raised this matter frequently in this House. The Department of Regional Economic Expansion is supposed to be the watchdog of the economy as far as these areas are concerned. Why has it not advised the other departments what to do? Why has it not co-ordinated their activities? It is true the department has made money available to industry, but its beneficial activities are offset by those of other departments.

There is one other matter on which I should like to speak briefly. It concerns control over foreign ownership about which the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources (Mr. Greene) had something to say earlier. Though I agree with some of the things the hon. gentleman said about the need to limit the entry of foreign capital, I certainly hope he and his friends do not go overboard in this direction. For those who come from Toronto, where there is plenty of industry established, it is easy to say: We do not want foreign capital here to provide employment. But anyone who comes from a province like Nova Scotia, for example, takes a more cautious view. In that province between 70 and 75

industries have been brought in by an aggressive government, and foreign capital made this possible. When one realizes that in November, in Nova Scotia, the unemployment rate was less than that of the country as a whole, it becomes apparent that the introduction of foreign capital has produced good results in some parts of the country. So I warn the hon. gentleman not to go overboard in this direction.

I will end by saying this: You can take the boy from the country, but you cannot take the country from the boy. Let us not force everyone to live in urban centres where people are faced with housing problems, transportation problems, pollution and high costs. It has been estimated that between 103,000 and 106,000 people left the Atlantic provinces between 1961 and 1966. What bothers me most is the age of the people who are leaving; it is the age group 20-24 which is making up most of the emigration figure. The government should not wait until the people have left before it acts. The time to act is not after the people have gone to the cities. Let us attempt to prevent some of this movement to the towns; let us try to plan our cities; let us try to plan a total Canada. We are a growing country and, surely, every part has some potential.

Mr. Ray Perrault (Burnaby-Seymour): Mr. Speaker, I can only express profound regret that the spokesmen for the official opposition, who allegedly possess definitive answers to all the problems which afflict Canada, were so sadly unable to apply those solutions during the disastrous period when they governed Canada in late 1950s and early 1960s.

The right hon. gentleman from Prince Albert (Mr. Diefenbaker) spoke the other day, telling us how we should cure inflation and how we should reduce unemployment in Canada. In light of the right hon. gentleman's record as Prime Minister, that is something like an arsonist speaking on the subject of fire prevention.

An hon. Member: Oh, you are funny.

Mr. Mackasey: He is factual.

Mr. Perrault: I think the factual information which I hope to present will be illuminating. Tonight there is jubilation on the part of the official opposition about what they say are disastrous unemployment figures. What were the figures for the years when the right hon. gentleman's government held office? In 1958 the percentage of unemployment was running at 10.1. What is it in