

● (1542)

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

**Mr. Abbott:** Mr. Speaker, acting on behalf of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Horner), I would ask that the debate be closed, and move that the bill be moved to committee. I see that my hon. friend is rising to speak.

**Mr. Bob Brisco (Kootenay West):** Mr. Speaker, yesterday during a rather lively debate in the House on this bill, I had the opportunity, or the misfortune—whichever way you would like to put it—of listening to the comments of the hon. member for Comox-Alberni (Mr. Anderson), the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment. After listening to and reading his speech, I wondered whose side he was on. I think he should have stuck to his own department, one which hopefully he knows more about. I hope he is better informed on fisheries and the environment than he is on industry, trade and commerce and the EDC, because the bait that he was trolling would only catch suckers.

**Mrs. Pigott:** That is a good one.

**Mr. Brisco:** Yesterday he stated—and he was on shaky ground, or perhaps he was at sea—that I have no reason to suspect the words of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Horner). That is the statement of the year. I have reason to suspect the words of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. The people of Alberta have reason to suspect his words, and all other Canadians have reason to suspect his words. For example, the minister made a very solemn promise to the city of Edmonton that he would expand their airport facilities and improve on them. He then lived up to that promise by narrowing it, stenosing it, stricturing it, and restructuring it so that the program really amounts to nothing. I have heard the minister speak in this House very strongly in favour of a beef import act. Now he favours an import-export permit scheme which he himself knows has caused a great deal of difficulty within the beef industry. So much for the flip-flop, cow plop statements of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

The parliamentary secretary yesterday said, as reported at page 4904 of *Hansard*:

Day in and day out I hear doom and gloom from hon. members opposite concerning employment problems—

Thank goodness there is somebody, sir, in this House of Commons who is prepared to draw to the attention of this Liberal government the very real reasons for doom and gloom in this country. We have the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce with his new bill, we have EDC with their proposals, and you have the opposition preaching doom and gloom. Where does that doom and gloom come from? It comes from my constituency, from the member's constituency, Comox-Alberni, and from all constituencies across Canada, save and except a few.

Do you know, Mr. Speaker, what the unemployment figures are for my riding of Kootenay West? Obviously, the hon.

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member for Comox-Alberni has no idea what the unemployment figures are for his particular riding, otherwise he would address himself to the very doom and gloom which he accuses us of preaching. If he had the fortitude to come forward and admit to the fact that this country is in a very serious situation, and if he had the fortitude and intelligence to listen occasionally to the opposition, instead of rejecting out of hand any proposals which are put forward, then perhaps he might accomplish something of benefit for his own riding.

I would like to give a brief example of the doom and gloom that face us, why it is doom and gloom, why I am concerned, and why the opposition is concerned at something that absolutely fails to register on the other side. It does not matter what the inflation rate is, it does not matter how many unemployed there are, when it comes down to the cold hard facts, the government acts and reacts about two years out of phase.

Let us look at Statistics Canada. They gathered data on 19 specific categories of manufactured and imported end products and classified them as high technology manufacturers. These are the kinds of items that we see developed in foreign countries by the Export Development Corporation. I have no beef with the basic thrust of that corporation, but my first concern is Canada and jobs for Canadians. I do not care how much rhetoric we hear from the other side about how much the pulp mill in Poland is going to help Canada, it still does not come anywhere near looking to the problems that are before us in terms of our own markets and our own products.

When we wonder where the jobs have gone for the 1.5 million unemployed, we note that most of them, 80 per cent have gone back to the United States. Ten per cent has gone to Japan, and another 10 per cent to Britain and the European community. We have a deficit in end product, high technology manufactured products, of \$8.2 billion for 1977. At the risk of boring the hon. member, perhaps he would listen to the impact of these figures. We are not talking pennies or dollars, but we are talking millions and millions of dollars.

What is our export situation and our import situation in terms of some of these products? What about our man-made fibres? The net deficit for man-made fibres is \$41,151,000. In chemicals we have a deficit of \$253 million. I will not bother with the thousands, because the government does not. In petroleum and coal products, one of the unusual ones, we find that we actually have a surplus of \$360 million. Industrial machinery is at \$743 million, and mechanical handling equipment, \$148 million. These are all deficits, and these are things that we are bringing to Canada that should be manufactured and produced in Canada.

Surely, if the markets are there, as is evidenced by the statistics and the volume of imports, our industries can pick up that slack even if it is only the 20 per cent by which they are now depressed. Other industrial machinery has a \$1,296,000,000 deficit. In spite of the fact Canada is one of the major agricultural producers in the world, agricultural machinery has a net deficit on imports of \$746 million. In railways, locomotives and rolling stock, the deficit is \$46 million.