

industry by permitting the import of IBM equipment. France and Germany decided to concentrate their efforts on the manufacture of certain products and to protect the industries concerned until they become sufficiently strong, on the basis of a domestic market, to compete successfully with the rest of the world. The Canadian government has made no decision along such lines. What is our defensive strategy? We know other countries will want us to drop our tariffs, and that in return we shall ask them to drop their non-tariff barriers.

We also know there are a thousand ways of increasing non-tariff barriers. Our industrialists know they cannot get a chance to compete in a number of markets where they might otherwise be successful. How is this to be stopped? Canada does not impose many non-tariff barriers, yet we are faced with non-tariff barriers put up to protect other countries. What is the minister's industrial strategy? He should be addressing himself to the state of the electronics industry. The plastics industry is another industry we should be helping, especially since the petrochemical industry is the base from which the plastics industry gets its supplies. But the chemical producers are in a state of alarm, as our correspondence indicates. These industries should be brought into the dialogue.

We realize that everyone was allowed to submit a brief to the committee on tariffs and trade; but there has been no feedback. There is, I believe, a tendency in the department to regard spokesmen for industry as not being sufficiently in the real world, not sufficiently in favour of free trade. Mr. Speaker, we are not against the concept of free trade when it can be implemented fairly around the world. It is a question of degree. We have to protect our interests, too. No other country is going to sacrifice its national interests because of the holy slogan "Free trade". The other countries around the bargaining table will protect their interests as far as they can and, hopefully, lower trade barriers too. Who will be sacrificed? Who will lose their jobs? How many exemptions will be allowed at Geneva and on what percentage of our trade? Perhaps the minister does not have the answer to these questions.

I do not believe we need to be pessimistic about Canada. There is nothing which cannot be remedied, provided the government goes about its business correctly, gives out the appropriate information and squares with the industries involved. Surely, the hon. member who heads this department and who was in opposition for 14 or 15 years should be one whose desire it is to involve industry and the resource sector in these negotiations. He might at least let them know what is happening.

The same applies to agriculture and to the fishing industry. We have to get trade barriers lowered in these cases. What does the minister hope to accomplish for them? What will he be obliged to give up if he is to accomplish anything for them? Wherever we look in the business sections of our newspapers, we are reminded of the difficulties presently faced by industry. One independent and objective study shows that in the 1960s, when we thought we were well off, Canada's position vis-à-vis

the rest of the world was deteriorating. The report even says Canada might become—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I regret to interrupt the hon. member, but the time allotted to him has expired. Of course, he may continue with unanimous consent. Is there unanimous consent?

An hon. Member: No.

Hon. Jack H. Horner (Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce): Mr. Speaker, I should like to take this opportunity to thank the opposition for enabling me to put a few facts on the record and set aside what appears to be their growing fear.

I listened very closely to the speech of the hon. member for St. John's West (Mr. Crosbie), but I failed to find in it any indication of the direction in which he thinks Canada should be going, though he did express a host of fears. One moment I thought he was in favour of greater protection, and the next I thought he was in favour of free trade. At any rate, he did seem to play around a great deal with the term "industrial strategy" and read something out of the report of the Science Council which he felt constituted an industrial strategy. It certainly did not, to my mind. An industrial strategy has to take into consideration a whole variety of matters, including taxation policy, what markets in the world are we capable of meeting, what proportion of the domestic market is to be reserved as far as possible, what kinds of goods and services we are best fitted to produce for sale abroad. One element should include a policy of upgrading as many of our own resources as possible.

To my mind, the word "policy" means a plan of action. Around here, the word "policy" has always fascinated me. In my interpretation, "policy" means a plan of action, and "industrial strategy" means several plans of action. Certainly, there are several plans of action in place right now, and I will enlarge upon them during my remarks.

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It is true to say that politics for industrial development must be rooted in a realistic assessment of Canada's strengths and weaknesses and in the context of a dynamic world environment. On the positive side, this country has a lot going for it. We are among the most favourably-endowed nations in terms of natural and human resources. Our labour force is growing more rapidly than it is in some other developed countries and, while relatively small in the numerical sense, it is among the best educated and most highly skilled anywhere. Our industries enjoy strong technological interrelationships with those of other industrial nations, so we have access to the most scientific advances that occur throughout the world. Therefore, we do not have to be as pessimistic about Canada's future as some people would like.

What are we doing about meeting with and aiding industry within Canada? Just recently, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce reorganized several programs—I think they number about seven—into one called EDP. We have set