Taxation

ridings of every hon. member. Everyone who writes to their member of Parliament indicates that interest rates are killing them, whether they are workers in the construction industry or home owners. People in the forest industry know that the downturn in housing construction in the United States is because of its high interest rate policy.

Why can we not develop some initiative, some drive and some enthusiasm in Canada for the economy? Why can we not have a government in Ottawa which supports sourcing of manufacturing related to the Canadian resource industry? Dome Petroleum estimates that it will need 140 vessels by the year 2000 for Beaufort Sea exploration and development. Does the government have a policy of building ships for offshore oil and gas exploration in Canada? No, it does not. It will go anywhere in the world to buy ships; it will not provide shipbuilding jobs for Canadians.

Mr. Paproski: It will even buy from socialist countries like Russia.

Mr. Miller: Yes, it will buy from Russia, Taiwan, the United States, Japan or Germany, but it will not provide jobs in Canada. It will not provide jobs for skilled workers and the spin-offs from the shipbuilding industry.

The government should develop a policy whereby the equipment used in megaprojects, if any ever get going, in coal development and in mining in general is sourced in Canada. Why can this not be done? We have a government which does not believe in and does not want to involve itself in such programs.

There could be a steel mill in British Columbia, for example. The federal government and the provincial government of British Columbia could take the initiative to establish an auto manufacturing or parts plant for Japanese cars in British Columbia. The government should be committed to jobs for Canadians and from those jobs to access to universities for students and access to social programs through balanced budgets, rather than to deficit financing. We will not be able to support the social programs in Canada to which we have become accustomed if the government continues to borrow at high interest rates and to pay foreign banks on these loans. We must develop an industrial strategy so that we know what kinds of jobs will be needed in the future, and we must plan a strategy so that young people obtain jobs and the necessary training.

Borrowing authority will not solve the underlying problems. The problem with continuing to borrow is that we simply spend more of our budget on financing the national debt. That is a blind end or a dead end; that is something which Canadians will not and cannot tolerate any longer. We need a government which really believes in the initiative and self-reliance of Canadians. I believe the government can begin doing that by bringing in a new budget and some new economic policies to give Canadians job opportunities and education for our young people.

• (1600)

Mr. Fred McCain (Carleton-Charlotte): Mr. Speaker, I found it quite interesting listening to the remarks of the last speaker. I think it would only be proper to remind him that it is not so long ago that provincial members of this party were imposing unheard of royalty burdens on natural resources.

Mr. Kristiansen: Eight per cent growth.

Mr. McCain: Those burdens have had a major impact upon the viability of the natural resource industry, whether it be fishing, forestry or mining.

Mr. Kristiansen: It produced 8 per cent growth while you stagnated.

Mr. McCain: It is not so long ago that the NDP, in cooperation with the government of the day, tried to make profit a dirty word.

Mr. Kristiansen: Only when you sell nukes to the Nazis.

Mr. McCain: Not only has the hon. member's financial capability proven questionable, but his manners are deplorable. I did not inject a word of complaint about anything he had to say, regardless of how much I disagreed with it. I am now commenting on his remarks and if he would care to comment on my remarks at some later time and in proper form, I welcome that and challenge him to do it.

It has been proven beyond any question of doubt that prosperity and profit go hand in hand with employment.

Mr. Kristiansen: It is my people you are laying off. That is why I am angry.

Mr. McCain: When prosperity and profit do not exist, employment declines to a point which is as much concern to me as it is to the hon. member in the NDP. Our hearts are in the same place; our philosophies are totally different. Our philosophy seeks employment and opportunity. Our philosophy seeks those opportunities which the hon. member for London West (Mr. Burghardt) described as existing in his youth and which enabled his success. I believe his success can quite properly be measured by the respect he has earned from the people who placed him in this House. The opportunity was there in the 1930s, as hard as it was to come by. We now find that opportunity declining. It has declined since the Government of Canada adopted NDP philosophies.

In co-operation with the NDP, the government has attacked profit. It has not encouraged productivity or investment, and, as a matter of fact, has discouraged it.

Mr. Kristiansen: You only know how to shovel out money.

Mr. McCain: Just as the NDP member, I am standing in the House today imploring this government to look at what it has done to employment opportunity for Canadians of all ages, from the student up to the more mature people of our society.