

Canada 'Simple Simon of trade: Blenkarn

Mar. 27-74 NT

84

RIF

CALGARY, Alt. — Canada should stop being the "Simple Simon" for the world and develop a national industrial policy of protective tariffs, resource stockpiling, and government-regulated pricing of raw materials, Mississauga MP Don Blenkarn told the Economic Society of Alberta this week.

In an address to the fifth annual conference Blenkarn said "Canadian home-markets should be assured to Canadian producers and the Government of Canada should stockpile for Canadian producers in times of plenty "in order to avoid the huge losses which often result from fluctuations in the world market.

"Producers should be given tax advantages if necessary, during times of shortage", Blenkarn said, along with "a pricing policy that puts an export tariff on the export of raw product so that the raw product exported "costs the buyer as much as if he was purchasing the finished product.

"Instead of producing pulp and sending it to some other country, are we not better to ship them the toilet paper and the J-cloths and the fine

paper to write up their orders?"

Blenkarn suggested the cost of the program be paid from general tax revenue, adding that since "we are prepared to spend \$3 billion on a manpower and unemployment insurance scheme that seems to be designed to perpetuate poverty, we should have no problem" with a subsidy program that "enables jobs to be created instead of

welfare payments".

Blenkarn concluded by saying he believed the foreign investment issue would be of less concern if "foreign-owned resource development companies were compelled to use their foreign capital "to manufacture their finished products in Canada. This, he said, would "give Canada full benefit for (its) resources."