

and through this corporation. The nations of Europe are demanding long-term loans and trade and commerce; and only governments, not private individuals, can carry on trade with them. If, as suggested by members of the Progressive Conservative party here tonight, the government did not bring in such a bill as this, it would mean that we would be isolated from the major trade routes of the world. It is not a question of what you want or do not want. It is a question of what you have to do when you are facing a given condition. It would be nonsensical not to put through such a bill as this, and the government has come to that conclusion through being faced with hard facts. More and more this government will have to enter into this form of enterprise, whether they like it or not. Some of the ministers have stated that they are going to solve our problems through good old Manchester Liberalism. But here is proof that this government is entering into trade relations with other governments.

Mr. JACKMAN: In answer to one or two suggestions made by the hon. member for Vancouver East, I am sure that the help the government is getting from the left wing must be valuable. The hon. member who last spoke said that this is a clear example of the manner in which our government is being forced into the position of trading with other governments. Certainly that is not what we believe, and what I think the majority of Canadians believe, is the best thing for Canadian prosperity and our standard of living. The hon. member for Vancouver East did have a word or two to say on the question whether or not business in Canada liked this measure. May I say to the minister that those of us in the official opposition who may appear to be critical of the measure are not necessarily against it; but even if certain organizations may or not have put their imprimatur on it that is no reason why we should not carefully examine the legislation instead of passing it without looking into it, as our friends of the C.C.F. would do. There is a strong tinge of socialism in it and that is to them proof of its goodness. I suggest to the minister that, while we may seem unduly critical at times, so far as this measure is concerned, all we wish is to understand it and to make sure that it is in the interests of the Canadian people, because we represent all the people in our ridings and not any particular section, as those in some parties may or may not do. We want to know what it is about, and it is a fair question to ask whether the minister intends this measure to have a long life or a short one during the transition period. He has told us that he expects it will expire in the

course of two or three years. I hope that is the story that he is telling the able men whom he is getting to administer the legislation, because you cannot pick good men out of the hat, offer them employment for a few years and then drop them unless the department will find a place for them afterwards. That is, I suggest again, another reason that the less government has to do with business, the better it will be all around. Business is a continuing affair; at any rate it strives to be continuing, and you cannot keep the best brains employed and expect them to serve you for a few years if you do not provide some other place for them when you cease to have need of them. The minister has said that the life of this corporation will be, he expects, only two or three years.

Mr. GREEN: The minister spoke of the purchasing of commodities under international control. When he made his statement on April 2 he referred to sugar, tea, oils and fats. Will he tell us how these commodities have been purchased hitherto for Canadians?

Mr. MacKINNON: The commodities mentioned have been purchased by the Canadian export board up to the present time.

Mr. GREEN: For how many years has that been done? Have they been buying all the tea, oils, fats, and sugar?

Mr. MacKINNON: I would not like to give a definite answer to that question at the moment. I think it is only reasonable and fair when a minister is presenting a bill, while he is being questioned on the technical aspects of the legislation, that he should have his officials in front of him. It is only a short time before we shall be going over the whole question again, and I suggest that the questions which are being asked now can best be answered when the officials are here.

Mr. GREEN: The house is in committee now. Ordinarily the minister would have his officials before him at this very time. If they are not here it is not our fault; it is his own fault, and he has no right to suggest that a member of the opposition asking questions should wait until the house is in committee on the bill. When the house is in committee on the bill it will be after the second reading and the principle of the bill will have been approved.

Mr. MacKINNON: Whether correctly or not, I have been informed that the officials are not allowed on the floor of the house until a bill is before the committee after second reading.

Mr. GREEN: That is not right.