

tional buyers and little or no effort is made to meet the interests of small investors and actively solicit their participation. This practice ignores two pertinent facts. First, it is very much in Canada's interest that the largest possible number of individual Canadian citizens have a stake in the nation's industrial and commercial enterprises, especially those associated with the development and processing of natural resources. Second, the millions of Canadians capable of making at least a small investment, if encouraged to do so, in the aggregate represent a vast pool of largely untapped investment capital which could significantly decrease Canada's present dependence on foreign sources.

Some years ago, when the Alberta Gas Trunk Line structure was created to gather and transport natural gas within the province, there was a significant demonstration of the readiness of citizens to participate in a viable enterprise involving their resources, if given an opportunity under circumstances which encourage their participation. Alberta Gas Trunk was set up by a special statute of legislature. It is not a crown corporation and no public money was put into it. The Government required that the equity stock in the company be offered exclusively to residents of Alberta. The share purchase price purposely was kept low to bring the stock within the financial reach of almost everyone. The initial issue was in the aggregate amount of approximately \$17 million. The significant thing was that applications for over \$70 million worth of stock were received from Alberta citizens.

Such a response certainly proved that small investors, if given an appropriate vehicle, can and will provide vast sums of investment capital for viable projects. We have failed to provide such vehicles in this country as a whole. If this deficiency were corrected, the response of small investors would go a long way toward lessening Canada's present dependence on foreign capital.

I do not regard the proposed Canadian Development Corporation as a desirable or satisfactory vehicle to accomplish this objective. Its employment of public funds will impose additional demands on Canadian taxpayers and the direct involvement of government will make the corporation subject to inevitable political pressures. A preferable alternative would be legislation providing simple regional corporate structures independent of government, and expressly designed to encourage and facilitate maximum local citizen participation in specific enterprises in which they have a mutual interest. Such structures would be a positive approach to greater Canadian ownership of Canadian industry, and could do much to establish and maintain a satisfactory balance between domestic and foreign investment capital.

Let me emphasize in closing that there are no political or economic or financial problems between Canada and the United States which are incapable of solution if approached intelligently and in a spirit of mutual co-operation and goodwill. Instead of magnifying our minor disagreements and exaggerating those routine problems which are normal when a large nation and a small nation live in close proximity, let us thank God that the people of both countries have so much in common. There are no

other two nations living side by side anywhere on this earth whose open boundaries and common aspirations and ideals make co-operation and mutual goodwill so natural or so easy to attain. How different the circumstances would be for Canada if we shared this continent with a totalitarian world power dedicated to burying the capitalist system and given to overrunning its weaker neighbours by brute military force. Under such circumstances the international boundary would bristle with tank traps and gun emplacements instead of signs welcoming Canadian visitors as neighbours and friends.

It is my sincere hope that this new decade will see the governments and people of both countries rise above negative and retrogressive nationalism, that our progress in Canada towards true national greatness may be enhanced by wise and constructive relations with our great and friendly neighbour. As a step to that end I urge the Government of this country to undertake without delay a meaningful reassessment of Canada's position in the matter of Canada-United States relations. I ask the Government Leader in this house to bring this request to the attention of the Prime Minister.

On motion of Hon. Mr. O'Leary, debate adjourned.

#### PENSION ACT AND CIVILIAN WAR PENSIONS AND ALLOWANCES ACT

##### EFFECT OF DELAY IN GIVING ROYAL ASSENT—QUESTION

**Hon. George S. White:** Honourable senators, I should like to ask the Leader of the Government if he can now answer the question I asked him on March 31 last as to the reason for the delay in giving royal assent to the act to amend the Pension Act and the Civilian War Pensions and Allowances Act, and if as a result of the two-week delay the pensioners under that act lost benefits for those two weeks.

**Hon. Mr. Martin:** I think honourable Senator White is quite right in asking that question. I must admit that I had forgotten about it. I shall make enquiries and endeavour to have the answer available tomorrow.

#### CRIMINAL RECORDS ACT

##### LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE STUDY

The Senate resumed from yesterday the adjourned debate on the motion of Hon. Mr. Hastings that the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs examine and report on the operation and administration of the Criminal Records Act, chapter 40 of the statutes of 1969-70, and in particular upon the operation and administration of subsection (2) of section 4 thereof.

**Hon. Earl A. Hastings:** Honourable senators, with the consent of honourable Senator Thompson, I ask leave to resume the debate on his behalf.

**The Hon. the Speaker:** Is it agreed, honourable senators?

**Hon. Senators:** Agreed.