

*Export Development Act*

leadership, one Brian Mulroney, now the Hon. Member for Central Nova, the Leader of the Opposition, said at that time that when he becomes leader and when he becomes Prime Minister—a presumptuous statement—

**Mr. Forrestall:** He has and he will.

**Mr. Tobin:**—there will be room for people of other political persuasions in this country to fill important roles in the Public Service but only after he has exhausted every single Tory in Canada. That, Mr. Speaker, is an amusing kind of statement which we tend to make in politics, but I hope it was only said in jest because if this proposed amendment is made in the spirit of ensuring that only three people whose abilities and service to this country are based on merit, not on partisan affiliation, can be allowed to serve on the board whose job is to assist Canadian business in doing business overseas, then I am a very disappointed man.

Let us look at some of the people from the public sector who should or could serve on that board, and who would be absolutely vital to ensuring that whatever private sector representatives are there, they are able to do as complete a job as possible. Who are some of those people? A representative from the Bank of Canada, perhaps the governor. That to me is a key Public Service appointment if this board is to be effective and not merely a bit of window dressing; a representative of the Minister of Trade's Department, of course; a representative from Industry, Trade and Commerce, of course; and a representative from CIDA, and this Department works with CIDA.

**Mr. Dick:** Pork-barrel.

**Mr. Tobin:** The Hon. Member's view of doing business overseas is politicized and is seen only through partisan eyes, Mr. Speaker.

If Canada is going to be successful in doing business, it is fundamental that a representative of the Department of Finance be on that board as well. These are key Government Departments which need to be represented. I want you to understand, Mr. Speaker, why I speak as I do today. If the Hon. Member for Mississauga South or any Member of this Party or any Party moved a motion to say that at least six members of the board had to be public servants, I would equally be opposed to having quotas. I think that what the Minister has provided is an increase from 12 to 15 members, and what he has said is that those 15 members should be the best people we can find, be they public or private, they should constitute as much as is possible the best mix of people to work together to enhance Canada's ability to do business overseas.

**Mr. Forrestall:** We will find someone to represent Newfoundland.

**Mr. Tobin:** Mr. Speaker, that is the other key point, and I am glad the Hon. Member for Dartmouth-Halifax East (Mr. Forrestall) has raised that point. I hope that raising the number of people on the board from 12 to 15 would not make it an exclusive prerequisite of an appointment but, rather, that as much as possible, if not the Provinces then certainly the

regions of Canada, each of which has different and various resources, skills, products and expertise to offer, might perhaps be better represented on this kind of an advisory board.

● (1630)

In closing let me say again that I for one would be very concerned if a motion were moved that there must be six public servants, that there must be a quota, as I am now concerned to hear the Conservative Party saying there must be at least 12 to 15 appointments filled by the private sector. We in the House must get back to the notion that we can—

**Mr. Taylor:** Socialism.

**Mr. Tobin:** No, not socialism but, rather, the mirror principle that we can best function when none of us becomes a blind, repetitive parrot for the extreme wing of our own extreme doctrinary position of our own particular philosophies. Is it not a rather embarrassing position to be standing up pounding one's fist across the way, saying that at least 12 of 15 key positions must be filled by those in private enterprise? It is a page from an extreme doctrine, a bible that is carried around. I thank God I am not in a position to be a member of a Party which would take a position as the NDP might that at least 12 of 15 positions must be filled by those in the Public Service. I repeat that we must find the best mix and the best people based on the merit principle.

Once again I warn the Conservative Party and the Hon. Member for Central Nova (Mr. Mulroney) that the eyes of the people of Canada, now that he has entered the House, are very closely following his every utterance. The eyes and the ears of the people have seen his charismatic front and they want to know how deep it is. I would suggest that it is so shallow that I could walk across it with only a pair of slippers on and not even get my ankles wet. I warn him today that if I were made Prime Minister of this country, there would be room for merit only after every known partisan Tory has had an appointment. I shall warn him that the certainty and the cockiness with which he entered this Chamber will be deflated rapidly and much to his disappointment, and, of course, much to my delight.

**Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland-Colchester):** Methinks the former speaker was preaching for a call. There is a vacancy in Newfoundland, I understand, in Canada's newest Province, and the great rhetoric that we have heard today, the great spirit of protection for the Public Service, will sit very well with the Prime Minister (Mr. Trudeau) as he now shuffles a very small deck in Newfoundland as to who can be and who cannot be in the one Treasury Board seat that is left. You were very, very impressive, Brian. We all look forward to your progress in the days ahead.

Of course, being very serious, I would first of all like to say to the Minister that I have been very impressed with his energy and activities since he assumed that portfolio. It was my pleasure to be in the Philippines last weekend to meet with the Speaker and with the Minister and Vice Minister of Energy there and to hear their complimentary words about the