

*Private Bills*

be the slightest doubt that we should follow a policy of preferring to buy Canadian goods.

I was very pleased to hear the hon. member for Vancouver South suggest that the bill should be sent to a committee for study because in my opinion it is a most important matter. It is one upon which an opportunity should be provided for the expression of views in order to ascertain what action this parliament might take. I do not know of anything else that could be done that would do more to create employment in Canada if it were pursued to the fullest extent.

**Mr. Habel:** I should like to correct the impression left by the hon. member who just took his seat. I must say that I never had in mind the giving of preference to United States goods. The point I was trying to make was that it is this kind of bill that creates the impression in the United States that we are trying to prevent them from investing in this country. My point was that as a young country we certainly need their investment.

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, I think perhaps the amendment before the house is one to which there is no opposition and perhaps it should be endorsed with the greatest amount of speed in order that the subject matter may be dealt with by a committee of the house, and in order that the interested parties might appear before that committee to present their views. I shall have more to say about that in a moment.

I think the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Habel), by deferring his opportunity to speak, as it were, to the hon. member for Kootenay West (Mr. Herridge), has really proved a statement made a few weeks ago by the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Hees) to the effect that the C.C.F. is the effective opposition. I understood the hon. member for Cochrane to say, and if I misunderstood him I certainly hope I will be corrected, that the position of the official opposition was that it was opposed to this subject matter going to a committee. I hear no voice raised to correct that understanding, so I assume it is correct. This is typical Liberal philosophy. Let us not be concerned about what other people think, but let us cram our ideas down their throats. You know the type of C. D. Howe activity that existed for so many years.

I support the idea of giving this matter extensive and detailed consideration such as can be given by a committee. You will note that it has always been our approach here that private members' bills should be given this treatment and not just left to die on the order paper as most of them are. One or two interesting things have been drawn to my attention which touch upon the subject matter

[Mr. Browne (Vancouver-Kingsway).]

of the bill. I have in my hand a joint Canadian National Railways-T.C.A. pass or credit card such as has been issued, I imagine, to every member of the house as well as to a number of other people in Canada. We know that both the Canadian National and T.C.A. are crown corporations and, presumably, would have the interests of the nation at heart. I have noticed that on the back of this particular credit card there are the words "Printed in U.S.A."

This really makes one wonder whether the Canadian National or T.C.A. even bothered to inquire as to whether there was a company in Canada in a position to print credit cards of this nature. I understand that there is such a company in existence. Perhaps this is something that these companies should clear up for us. I think perhaps T.C.A. and the Canadian National should review their policy in this regard and perhaps follow out the general idea we all have about Canadian purchases.

I have been told also, and I have no reason to believe it is incorrect although I did not take the opportunity of checking for myself, that there is a new men's washroom on the sixth floor close to the parliamentary restaurant. This is in the process of being decorated and provided with coat hooks. There is a stamp on these coat hooks which indicates they were made in the United States. It would seem to me that perhaps the people who purchased this particular item might have shopped around a little bit more to ascertain whether coat hooks of this nature are made in Canada. I am of the opinion that they are.

I only want to reiterate, Mr. Speaker, that I think we all realize the government—I do not confine these remarks to this particular government—has not all the brains in the country or all the brains in parliament. One of the reasons that private members, such as the hon. member for Vancouver South (Mr. Broome) introduce these bills is the hope that they will become law. When an individual prepares a bill and introduces it he is sincerely of the opinion it is a good piece of legislation and will be beneficial to the interests with which he is concerned. I know that this is the case here.

I think perhaps what should happen, not only to this bill but to all such bills, is that they should be referred to committees in order that they may be tested in the arena of public opinion, and tested against the statutes to ascertain whether there is any conflict and whether the idea should be advanced, rather than have such bills talked out day after day and die on the order paper. I feel that in this way we would be showing more respect for the ideas and views