

Government Orders

rifle on a turret. That is all it is. It is not a weapon of mass destruction.

These are integral to our own defence. They are integral to other countries' defences. Why do we not make them here? That is all this bill does. It allows it to be done and to give employment. It is very interesting.

You would expect a member from London to stand up and just talk about its impact for London, Ontario. Ultimately it is more important for reasons beyond that. I am also talking about jobs in Richmond, British Columbia; Vancouver; Edmonton, Alberta; Winnipeg, Manitoba; I am talking about high-tech skills being maintained in Quebec City. I am talking about industrial benefits and export earnings centred in Nova Scotia, in Mulgrave and Bridgewater.

The economic benefits of Bill C-6 extend all the way to St. John's, Newfoundland, directly, indirectly in the short term, in the long term and most importantly, in terms of jobs and dollars. The economic benefits for the country as a whole which flow from this are really quite astounding. The potential immediate contracts in the offing are close to \$1 billion. For any country's military, an industrial source of contracts for \$1 billion is an immense job creator, an immense centre of excellence, and that is what this bill will help do. It gives economic spin-offs, perhaps double or triple, direct employment perhaps approaching 10,000 person years, and future contracts, as yet unvalued, but similar in magnitude to what I have just mentioned.

• (1240)

Mr. Dickerson, the secretary-treasurer of the intercorporate council of General Motors, supports this bill very much. He would not support it if we were making weapons of mass destruction, but when we are making essentially a transportation vehicle, he does support it. He supports it because of the jobs for his union and the jobs for the subcontractors and their employees.

The heart of this bill is that we are restricting access through restricting the Export and Import Permits Act. We are creating jobs and we are dealing with a bureaucratic anomaly. The bill does not deserve a great deal of debate in this House.

What we should do is look at what it is. It is a pragmatic solution to a bureaucratic anomaly. That is all it is, but it also does help us to have a centre of excellence in two industrial categories which are very important for thousands of Canadians.

Mr. David D. Stupich (Nanaimo—Cowichan): Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the hon. member who has just spoken could answer one question for me and maybe even a couple.

Would the secretary-treasurer of the CAW, who was quoted as saying that he supports this, not be equally supportive of any move that was going to create the same number of jobs or sustain the same kind of employment?

It is not this particular work that the secretary-treasurer is interested in. It is just that he would rather have employment than unemployment. That is the question, really.

The other one is this. The hon. member mentioned it is just automatic rifles and light armoured vehicles that we are producing. Canada needs those for the defence of its own country.

From what potential aggressors would we be defending ourselves with a lot more rifles and a lot more light armoured vehicles?

Mr. Hockin: Mr. Speaker, to the hon. member's first question, you have to live in the real world.

There are no contracts for General Motors diesel division, outside of the locomotive division, in the offing. There are contracts for this transportation vehicle. That is what we are dealing with.

We cannot deal with potential jobs that may or may not arrive for some other product. There is no other product on the horizon. This one is there. It is a transportation vehicle which could be used by the UN. It could be used by any civil power that wanted to transport its police. It is a transportation vehicle.

It is equipped with a turret and an automatic weapon just to defend it. For example, if you were defending your own country in a state of siege, and you were under attack from hand grenades or whatever, you would have to have some sort of facility. You are not just going to be a sitting duck but you are going to deter that kind of attack.