

*Foreign Control of Canadian Industries*

automatically follows the nation is healthy. One need only look at the ups and downs of Canada's economy to see what has been done to the Canadian people while free enterprise remained healthy.

I agree with the remarks made earlier today by my colleague, the hon. member for York South (Mr. Lewis) when speaking about nationalism. I do not mean the old fashioned, high tariff, isolationist brand of nationalism. What we need is a brand of nationalism which allows our nation to be developed to the fullest and yet remain masters in their own house. Democratic socialists have a long history of internationalism in the world, both in peacetime and wartime. In many countries there is a parochial nationalism which stifles understanding and co-operation between nations; this kind we oppose.

It may seem strange for internationalists to talk about Canadian nationalism. But we believe that only when Canada is fully independent and sovereign will it be a better internationalist. The problems which face our people and our country are the results of over 100 years of old line party governments. To deal with these problems effectively and democratically requires a fundamental change in the direction and purpose of our society.

We in this party keep raising these and similar matters in the hope that by some strange metamorphosis one of the old parties will change and do things differently. The greatest confession ever made in the history of mankind has been that made by the so-called free enterprise systems when, in the early 1950's there was the realization that there were millions of poverty stricken people within those systems. In the era prior to that we had been told this was the only kind of system in which people should live. A society that permits one-third of its citizens to live in poverty or near poverty in the midst of great wealth, is basically immoral. A society that perpetuates the waste and selling out of our resources, denies opportunity and fulfilment to millions of people, leads to its own destruction. A society whose purpose is to put profits ahead of the health and welfare of its people betrays what is best in all of us.

A country with a system which permits ever increasing amounts of its industry, resources and culture to be owned by outside interests is on its way to extinction as an independent political entity. It is illusionary to ask a foreign owned corporation to make decisions which will be in the best interests of Canada. This is not only illusionary, but unfair. They will make decisions in the best

[Mr. Benjamin.]

interests of their companies and shareholders. That is what takes priority in their decision making.

There are numerous examples in Canada of decision making by these foreign owned companies that harmed Canada. These decisions were made in the best interests of the corporations, shareholders and investors. A good illustration of this is the flour mills. A decision is made in a board room in Chicago to close a flour mill in a small city in Saskatchewan without the slightest consideration for or consultation with the citizens of that city, the provincial or federal governments. This decision was made only because this particular corporation has some surplus capacity and this particular plant, along with a number of others in the United States, were fast becoming worn out, needing to be replaced or scrapped. It is perfectly natural for that milling corporation to close down plants outside its borders. I suppose if we were put in the same position, we would make the same decision. This corporation would only be asking for trouble if it closed plants in its own country before closing those of a similar nature outside its borders. They made a decision which, in their opinion, was perfectly justified. But the Canadian government sat, said and did nothing. Those same flour milling corporations obeyed the laws of the United States, not Canada, when they refused to accept orders to mill Canadian wheat into flour which would be sold to Cuba. This is a good example of a betrayal of citizenship.

Plants of the canning industry in Canada which were taken over by foreign companies have now been shut down. These companies can these products outside our borders, label them with the manufacturer's name and send them to Canada. This means a loss of jobs in canneries for Canadians. I do not condemn the United States corporate decision makers, but the spineless Canadian governments who sit and hide behind constitutions, worry about languages rather than activities such as these.

All hon. members in this house know of a number of examples with regard to auto manufacturers and the decisions which they make outside of our boundaries. These decisions have harmful effects on our people, yet our government stays silent and does nothing. We in this party intend to raise this matter ad nauseum, according to some. We are not going to remain silent. We can be good neighbours with our friends to the south, but we must be masters in our own house if we are going to avoid becoming a 51st state. I know that members of other parties have