

government enterprise. We are still working on the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs. He has included representatives from the business community on his consumer council. There is no danger of ever forgetting these people. They are the first appointed. I understand this consumer Council also includes, consumers and representatives of small businesses. One of these days I hope we will persuade the minister to include someone from the low income group. The minister indicates he has one on the council now, but as far as I am aware this is a fairly well paid salaried civil servant. In no way is he a representative of the low income group.

I am not very much in favour of the Senate as such, but even it amended our packaging and labelling bill so that the minister must, before making changes in the regulations, consult with representatives of both the business side of packaging and labelling and the consumer side. If the Senate can see fit to counsel the Commons to put that sort of provision in legislation, it is time to take another look at a bill as important as this which sets up the Canada Development Corporation. I am sure this is one of the important points in this bill. We want to see this provision in order that directors can and shall be appointed who will give adequate representation to the different interests in Canadian society. We would have included a good many more people than representatives of labour and consumers, but we do not wish to burden the House with those details at this stage.

The government would do very well to consider this point because, whether it likes it or not, sooner or later it will have to recognize the fact that in the whole of this operation, not just the Economic Council, National Health and Welfare, Consumer Affairs and one or two other of its many working operations, it will have to include representatives from every single sector of the Canadian society. If Canada is to be a viable country, and this is more important than whether this government is successful, we will have to appoint representatives from the business community, the commercial sector, consumers, farmers and other groups. They must have their share of the say in planning every piece of legislation that goes through this House.

In respect of the Canada Development Corporation, the least the government can do to give some confidence to the Canadian people that it is considering something besides the business community is to accept this amendment. This would provide for the inclusion of the broad spectrum of other Canadian interests and would indicate that the corporation is to be the servant of Canadians at large, rather than merely another pasturage for the business community in this country.

Mr. Max Saltsman (Waterloo): Mr. Speaker, one of the points we have been trying to make throughout this debate is that the bulk of the commercial activity in this country will probably remain in private hands. Perhaps a great deal of it should remain there, but there is a growing and important role for the government as well. We also argue that the government's role should be distinctive and different. There is not much point in the government merely trying to duplicate what the private

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sector is doing, and if it is doing it well it should be left alone.

The role of the government lies in those areas where the private sector is not able to perform or where innovation is called for and the private sector is not prepared to take the risk. We can point to a number of examples of this type of area where the government should lead the way. It should be the pathfinder and the trail blazer. This has been the case in respect of minimum wages and in various other forms of legislation adopted by this House of Commons.

In moving the two amendments that have been combined, we are really arguing that if the CDC is to be something different from what exists now in the private sector it should take into account not only this economic role but also its administrative role and, perhaps in some ways, its social role. It should play a different kind of part than that played by ordinary business corporations. The government itself recognized that the CDC should be somewhat different. We do not believe the government is going far enough, but it does claim that the CDC, although it is profit-oriented, has additional terms of reference relevant to public interest. In this way it has indicated it envisages this corporation as being somewhat different. When the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) is challenged that this is merely another investment corporation or the establishment of a mutual fund, he recoils in horror and says it is really something different.

What we are asking the government is whether, in fact, it does believe the CDC is different. If it does, then the CDC should behave in a somewhat different fashion than that manifested by ordinary corporations. Let us first of all refer to ordinary corporations. They are totally profit-oriented and have in the past been very loathe to become democratic or to take into consideration other factors in the consumer or national interest. They have always argued that they cannot operate that way. Surely, the CDC cannot accept this point of view. Surely, we can be assured that although the CDC intends to be somewhat profit-orientated, it will follow some precedence for having representatives from different industries in the Canadian society, including labour, consumers, farmers and other organizations, as members of the board. It may be that the government will not have to reach outside those who hold dividends or stock in the Canada Development Corporation.

• (3:20 p.m.)

But we are saying that when it comes to appointing a board, some additional criteria should be established because generally a board is appointed on the basis of who holds the most shares. It is quite obvious who will hold the most shares. It will be the banks, the trust companies and finance companies in Canada who hold the most shares in everything else. So, the CDC board will look like any other board in this country. That is not what we want. We feel that farmers should be represented if the CDC finds that a wide proportion of such people hold shares or perhaps workers. We believe some regard should be shown for this kind of representation and that,