

Economic Relations with United States

the opposition to a motion presented by another party by which the absurdities of the motion itself were reduced to a minimum. I find it strange, in listening to the very good speeches, that the member for Nanaimo-Cowichan-The Islands had found a method of defending it so that they could-

An hon. Member: You only listened to half the speech.

Mr. Francis: They have changed the thrust of the motion. They have deleted one-half of the motion, and the part they have deleted is the charge against the government that it is responsible for the deterioration of relations with the United States of America. Therefore, all the sanctimonious pieties that we heard in the speeches from the Official Opposition are, by the admission of the opposition itself in accepting the amendment, thereby denied by their own act. There is no longer any obligation on members on this side of the House to attempt to answer the absolutely absurd charges contained in the first half of the motion.

What we have before us now, Mr. Speaker, is purely and simply a motion which is cast in the framework of economic nationalism which says that Canada should seek to become more independent in its economic relations with our neighbour to the south. This is the thrust which the New Democratic Party has given to this debate and which has been accepted by the movers of the motion, admitting the clumsy way in which it had been originally construed and the absurdity of trying to put together the pieces which were totally irreconcilable.

We have to look at the economic realities of Canada. As a result of the events of recent days we have a wave of economic nationalism surging in our country. We all recognize that. As Canadians, we have a certain dual aspect to almost everything we do with the United States. On a day to day basis we want to drive a motor car of North American manufacture; we want to buy gasoline of a North American brand; we want to be able to cross the border and use credit cards; we want to watch the same programs on television; we want to participate in the same national or international sports of football—and argue whether it should be three downs or four downs—and hockey in which we trade our players back and forth. We want at the same time to maintain our complete social, economic and cultural independence.

There are certain problems in seeking those objectives and the problems come out when we have to deal with matters like this. I have received, as I am sure every member of this House has, letters from constituents demanding that we take forcible and vigorous action against our neighbours to the south. Indeed, my colleague the hon. member for York East who spoke earlier in this debate also spoke in the debate in this House on September 10 when he said Canada should stand alone. These are fine phrases, but Canada's record as a trading nation is something that we should not forget. We know that 28 per cent of our gross national product is derived from exports and that per capita we are one of the world's great trading nations. We have to look at places like Singapore, Hong Kong and so on to get a similar situation in per capita terms.

We have to look again at what is happening in the contemporary world. I listened to my good friend the hon.

[Mr. Francis.]

member for Kent-Essex when he spoke about Great Britain joining the European Economic Community. It is no accident that the decade of debate was finally resolved by a government of the United Kingdom supported not only by a majority of its own members but a very significant group of the Official Opposition in the House in a historic decision to join the European Economic Community.

Those of us who speculated about what such a decision would mean to Canada have got over the initial alarm with which we approached the potential loss of the Canadian markets, realizing that we must look forward. It is suggested that we must take advantage of the expanded markets and prosperity of western Europe, especially since that prosperity will undoubtedly grow in the years ahead. Yet, there is no immediate prospect of Canada's joining the European Economic Community. The facts of geography are against it. The facts behind the trading patterns of Canada are also against it, if one examines those facts. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Pepin) and the Minister of Finance (Mr. Benson) have said in this House that we must face the problem of creating jobs and protecting jobs.

• (4:00 p.m.)

In its 1965 report the Economic Council of Canada pointed out that resource development does not create enough jobs and that we have to look to secondary industry if we want to create jobs. In order to achieve our national objectives, industries that show reasonable prospects for development should be given the greatest encouragement possible to develop. Where are we to find markets for those export products other than our national resources that create jobs in Canada? I listened to my hon. friends on the other side talk about the growing Japanese market. Does Japan really want to buy our aircraft, or does that country want to buy our copper, paper, coal and primary materials? We complain in Washington, and justifiably, in my opinion, that the Americans want Canadians to be hewers of wood and drawers of water; yet would not the Japanese wish even more to create such a pattern if we were to seek to expand our trade with them?

An hon. Member: Nonsense.

Mr. Francis: Would they be prepared to accept Canadian manufactured products as a substitute for the raw materials that they are now buying in such quantities as to create serious balance of payment problems which affect our relationships with Japan?

An hon. Member: In what quantities?

Mr. Francis: Those of us who think that Canada should seek markets ought to be a little more precise. They ought to specify which markets for which products they have in mind. I listened to the hon. member for Duvernay (Mr. Kierans) say that we should export more wheat. He distinguished between renewable and non-renewable resources. Where should we export more wheat, Mr. Speaker? Where should we export more paper products? Hon. members ought to tell salesmen of the pulp mills across Canada where to sell paper. They are doing their very best to sell paper right across the world. We should export our manu-