

*Canada Development Corporation*

one case, by God, where he is going to see that Canadianization objectives are met.

**Mr. Riis:** Hold your breath.

**Mr. Langdon:** I have been holding my breath. I must say it is a difficult experience holding one's breath waiting for decisions from this Government. You get verbiage and ideology, but when you are faced with a tough decision, as the Government has been in the case of Gulf and Western, nothing happens. Nothing happens, nothing happens and nothing happens. It has been nine months since the opening steps in this little saga and still there is no word.

Let me turn to the CDC itself. I have stressed the CDC as an example of creative, aggressive effective public ownership. I have explained why the Conservatives now feel they have to get it out of the public sector as quickly as possible. It is an embarrassment. At the heart of the CDC's success—and I want to bring this forward a little more forcefully than some of the other parts of the CDC story—is Polysar. Polysar demonstrates a lot to us as a country. It started with World War II. We had a war to fight. We had certain strategic and crucial concerns and we looked around to find out how to meet them. The private sector could not do it. American companies could not do it. We had to do it ourselves, and we did. We established Polysar. It was called Polymar in those days. It developed synthetic rubber production aggressively and effectively. After the war it took that technology and those sales to create jobs and establish exports throughout the world. Therefore, Polysar is now a powerful, progressive, exciting public Crown corporation with investments throughout the world.

● (1210)

I visited Polysar last January as part of my work as industry critic for my Party. Polysar representatives told me just how much co-operation they were receiving from the Government. The Conservative Party—and I remind Hon. Members of one of many promises which has not been kept—talked about a petrochemicals task force which would lead to Polysar being assisted quite effectively. As of January, when I visited, nothing had been heard of that great promise. As of September, I ask the Government: What has become of that commitment to that crucial section of our industry? Again, as with so much, it is a Government of ad hockery; it is a Government of quick responses to immediate crises; but it is not a Government which plans, thinks, organizes and prepares. As a result, it is not a Government which succeeds in economy strategy. Nothing demonstrates this more than the fact that instead of helping Polysar, instead of making it something to penetrate the United States market—and Hon. Members on the other benches claim that they are in favour of more trade—the Government is prepared to sell it off so that it can potentially be controlled by Noranda, with all of Noranda's expertise in high technology chemicals. Instead of helping Polysar through a response to the petrochemicals task force which the Conservative Party set up, it backs off. There has been no help, no assistance. It is typical. It is a Government which does not act.

It is a Government which talks. It is a Government which plays with words.

The point which we will be making very, very forcefully in the trade debate concerns the complete and utter failure of the Government to act on the aggressive back-door efforts by the United States to hurt our hog producers, our lumber producers in western Canada and our fish producers on the East Coast. Now there is talk about further aggressive moves against our steel industry. There is a lot of rhetoric, but no action. Government Members say: "Yes, we will get a freer trade agreement". If one believes them, two years from now we might get something. In the meantime, we have a crisis which is not being addressed and on which action is not taking place. It was our Party on the special joint committee this summer that called in city after city for urgent, immediate action on the problems faced by our exporters. The Government has refused to move. Talk about inaction, talk about bankruptcy! The bankruptcy in this country is not in our financial accounts; it is on our government benches.

Let me refer specifically to the Bill. It is a Bill which does three things. It follows through and allows the complete sell-off of CDC. This is consistent with the Conservative strategy to throw into the private sector anything that is doing well as a public corporation. Also, this Bill is designed to increase corporate concentration in Canada. Government Members, in their days on the opposition benches, used to talk about the need for competition and diversity and about the virtues of smallness. Now we have government Members in office who are permitting a couple of a large Canadian corporations to take over one more holding company in Canada. They are permitting Noranda to take what in effect will be an extremely strategic, perhaps even controlling, share in this company. It is a Bill which permits more corporate concentration. In the case of Noranda, that is consistent action on the part of Conservative Members in office. Noranda is a good friend of the Government and, now that it is in office, it is good to its good friends. Also it is a Bill which turns one of our instruments for Canadianization of the economy into an instrument of increased foreign ownership in Canada.

How any Government can bring forward such legislation without blushing is beyond me. There should be at least some sense of shame. If government Members bring forth a Bill which increases corporate concentration, we will attack them on that. Let us have a debate about their being in favour of the big guys and our being in favour of the small guys. It is a debate which has gone on for years; it is a debate which we will ultimately win. However, we have to add to that the fact that not only is the Conservative Government in favour of the large guys, it is in favour of foreign companies. Earlier I talked about funeral dirges on the part of the Minister. I say to the Government that dirges on the part of the Minister. I say to the Government that it is its funeral. If its Members want to take to the people of the country a philosophy which says: "Yes, we will sell off an active, viable company with good management, as demonstrated by an effective record, and open up the possibility of a large Canadian company, in conjunction