

Competition Tribunal Act

In addition, the report points out that two other huge financial institutions—the Laurentian Mutual Assurance Co. and Caisses Populaires Desjardins—have assets that rival the chartered banks.—Robin Korthals, president of the Toronto-Dominion Bank said—“the banks biggest concern is that their own rivals in the financial services business— insurance, trust or mutual fund companies—are not bound by the same ownership rules as banks, but should be—

No one can own more than 10 per cent of a Canadian chartered bank; and banks, in turn, cannot own more than 10 per cent of companies outside banking—

Bankers are not only concerned about the growing size of such family owned financial institutions, but are concerned about “cross ownership”—the linking of trust companies, insurance or mutual funds to other non-financial assets.

That is precisely what I was speaking about and that is precisely why so many questions were being asked today about the probably takeover by Genstar and, therefore, Canada Trust by Imasco.

I want to put on the record in the minute or two I have left the history of what has happened in recent years, Mr. Speaker. I am talking about larger mergers in Canada in which the transaction value is over \$500 million. The period covers 1979 to 1985.

In 1979 Petro-Canada took over Pacific Petroleum Ltd. for \$1.4 billion; the Woodbridge Co. Ltd., that is Thomson, took over Hudson Bay Co. for \$641 million; Carter Oil and Gas Co. Ltd. took over Hamilton Bros. Petroleum Corp. for \$522 million; Dome Petroleum Ltd. took over Mesa Petroleum Ltd. for \$640 million.

In 1980 Hiram Walker-Gooderham and Works Ltd. took over Consumers Gas Co. for \$1.2 billion; Dome Petroleum Ltd. took over Kaiser Petroleum Ltd. for \$700 million; British Columbia Resources took over Kaiser Resources Ltd. for \$665 million.

In 1981, Petro-Canada took over Petrofina for \$1.4 million; Olympia & York Development took over Abitibi-Price for \$618; Sulpetro took over CanDel Oil for \$546 and Noranda Mines took over MacMillan Bloedel for \$626. Dome Petroleum took over Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas for \$2 billion; Canadian Pacific Enterprises Ltd. took over Canadian International Paper for \$1 billion; Brascade Resources took over Noranda Mines for \$1.6 billion; Canada Development Corporation took over Aquitaine Co. for \$1.6 billion and Canada Development Corporation took over Texasgulf for \$2.2 billion.

In 1983, Bell Canada Enterprises took over TransCanada Pipe Lines for \$600 million; Olympia & York Developments took over Gulf Canada for \$2.8 billion; Gulf Canada took over Abitibi-Price for \$1.2 billion; Petro-Canada took over Gulf Canada for \$880 million and Genstar took over Canada Trustco for \$1.2 billion. That is just a partial record of the larger companies, Mr. Speaker.

I say, as have the bankers and many Conservative Members of Parliament, that this trend has not been useful to the country. It has not provided new jobs, nor has it made us more competitive. It is time the Government took steps and brought in legislation which would give the people of Canada at least some say about what happens in future economic development.

Mr. Bill Domm (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs and Canada Post): Mr. Speaker, I thought perhaps I would draw attention to the fact that Bill C-91 brought before this House today is 85 pages long. In order to comment on the following statement by the Hon. Member for Papineau (Mr. Ouellet), a former Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, I would first like to quote him as best as I can recall. He said that it has taken the Conservative Government too long, and asked why it took so long to bring in a competition piece of legislation. Either the Member for Papineau selectively chooses to forget the history of this Bill or he fails to recognize that it was he himself who introduced into this House, unsuccessfully, amendments to the Competition Bill that we are discussing today as Bill C-91.

He said the Bill does not go far enough and that that Bill C-91 is better than nothing. If this Bill is better than nothing, Mr. Speaker, then I might suggest perhaps the Liberal Government's Bill when in office and the Minister who introduced it must have had a Bill that was less than nothing. Then to confuse me further about what is the Member's actual position on this Bill, which is badly needed, he said he would like to get on with it. We will have an opportunity to answer a couple of the questions of the former Minister from Papineau. I hope we will be able to give this legislation second reading speedily in order to do what the NDP critic, the Member for Winnipeg North (Mr. Orlikow), says we have not done; that is, listen to the people he maintains we have not listened to in the last 19 months. The Member for Winnipeg North says that we have not listened to consumers and small businessmen and that he will hold this Bill up as long as he can until these people are heard from.

• (1510)

I think it is worthy to mention that in the months of July and August of 1985 we consulted extensively with both small and large business groups. It was implied in debate this morning by members of the Opposition that we were talking to big business rather than small business, that we were dealing with the banks rather than the entrepreneurs, the small businessmen who are the engine of economic growth in Canada.

I do not know whether the Chamber of Commerce in Winnipeg represents only banks, but I know that the Chamber of Commerce in Peterborough has 800 members from all sectors of the economy. In addition to bankers the members include farmers and small businessmen who really care about issues such as dominant position in the marketplace, and how they as small businesspeople can compete against large corporations. They are the first to recognize that over the last 16 years of Liberal domination of the economy of the nation, through policies established in the House of Commons in conjunction with the NDP, there have been no major changes to the competition legislation.

Hon. Members have said that we have not worked fast enough and that we have not consulted. I refer them to the