

Export Development Act

fer larger capital investment and more managerial skills to broaden the industrial base of Third World countries.

Further, I advocate modifications in Canadian tax laws, and other steps to encourage Canadian companies to participate in international trading companies and form consortia to help develop the economies of third world countries. At the same time, these ventures would bring substantial benefits to Canadian business and industry.

That is my case for making this intervention. I believe there are two sides to the EDC story, the side here in Canada which can be harmonized successfully with the other side, which is our need to find new markets and to develop those markets through the creation of self-reliance among those millions upon millions of people who want nothing more in life but the opportunities we have in this country.

Mr. Hugh A. Anderson (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and the Environment): Mr. Speaker, when the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce (Mr. Horner) initiated the debate on Bill C-36, he said that the Export Development Corporation was probably the most misunderstood corporation in Canada. After having read the record of the debate which has taken place on this bill, and having listened in person to the debate this afternoon in the House, I am afraid that people reading *Hansard* or listening to the debate will be confused further. I may be a country boy from Vancouver Island, but it seems to me that Bill C-36 is a very simple piece of legislation.

The bill proposes to amend the present Export Development Act by increasing the authorized capital of EDC to \$1 billion. It proposes to provide separate ceilings for direct and contingent liabilities, as well as providing ceiling amounts in the direct liabilities corporate account of \$10 billion. Also it proposes to have ceilings expressed for corporate accounts in multiples of ten times the authorized capital. I am not an economist, but that seems to be a simple bill.

● (1712)

I have no reason to suspect the words of the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce. He indicated that the Export Development Corporation will have reached its corporate lending level by the month of June. Therefore, either one of two things will happen. If this legislation is not approved, then there will be no more funds for the Export Development Corporation to lend out, because its maximum will have been reached.

If this legislation is allowed to go to committee, then I am sure the minister and his officials will be very glad to go over the role of the Export Development Corporation. As the hon. member for Cape Breton-East Richmond (Mr. Hogan) said, it should be out in the open. I am sure the officials will be willing to talk about interest rates and other matters. I hope the hon. member will participate in that committee in order to question the Export Development Corporation.

Since I am a country boy, perhaps I am not the world's greatest economist. I know in 1977 the Export Development

[Mr. Roche.]

Corporation contributed to maintaining and creating new jobs in the amount of 200,000 man-years.

Some hon. Members: Oh, oh!

Mr. Anderson: Perhaps that does not sound like very much to hon. members of the opposition. Day in and day out I hear doom and gloom from hon. members opposite concerning employment problems in Canada. This Crown corporation is increasing and maintaining Canadian jobs to the amount of 200,000 man-years.

Mr. Rodriguez: Oh, come on!

Mr. Anderson: I suspect the hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) does not like what I am saying because it is a success story.

An hon. Member: Right on!

Mr. Anderson: Hon. members of the opposition parties do not like to hear success stories.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): The hon. member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Rodriguez) on a point of order.

Mr. Rodriguez: Mr. Speaker, will the hon. parliamentary secretary permit a question?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ethier): Will the hon. parliamentary secretary permit a question?

Mr. Anderson: Mr. Speaker, I will more than welcome a question after the conclusion of my remarks.

Mr. Rodriguez: Chicken.

Mr. Anderson: Before the hon. member interrupted, I was referring to a success story. Aside from the Export Development Corporation creating jobs for Canadians, it is interesting to note that it is self-sustaining. In most years of its operations, it contributes a profit which is reinvested back into the corporation to be lent out again. My understanding is that the profit made by the Export Development Corporation in 1977 was approximately \$60 million. In itself, that is a very complimentary and beneficial result of the corporation. It means that the corporation generates funds to lend out on foreign markets.

The criticism regarding the Export Development Corporation basically has been that it is financing competition to Canadian industries. Because certain people and parties in this country have created the false impression that, by funding Canadian industries abroad, the Export Development Corporation is somehow cutting down jobs in Canada, this should be laid to rest in the House immediately. Capital projects in Indonesia, Poland, and Iran will go ahead with or without Canadian expenditure.

Mr. Rodriguez: Oh, oh!

Mr. Anderson: If the hon. member for Nickel Belt would care to debate this subject on any platform, I would be pleased