

of socialization of the fishing industry which this Government seems so intent on pursuing in Atlantic Canada. No, Mr. Speaker, we do not appreciate the stumbling blocks which the bureaucrats have consistently placed in the way of bringing new technologies and new industries into this country by FIRA, for instance. This has not been in the best interests of Canada, Mr. Speaker, and I become very concerned when I hear of an expanding role on the part of the EDC.

● (1620)

We have seen socialization move to such an extent in this nation that we have very nearly become neutered in our abilities to expand and promote in a country with some of the greatest resources and greatest potential of any nation on the face of the earth. We are faced with a massive bureaucracy, due solely and entirely to this Government, to its discredit. But let us now take the opportunity to develop something positive rather than something negative. Let us fill those positions on the EDC board with people who have proven track records from the private sector. The private sector in this country is what has made Canada great. The very fact that this Government has been unable to destabilize it, unable to undermine those foundations, is indeed a tribute to the ability and stability the private sector has brought to this nation over the years.

It is my contention, Mr. Speaker, that in order for this Government department to succeed it is important that we put people in those jobs who have imagination, not people who have only tomorrow to think about and the end of the week when they pick up their pay cheque from the taxpayers of the nation. We do not want people in those jobs who are there solely to create circumstances to justify the continuance of their own positions, and I strongly urge the Minister to consider the proposal put forward by my colleague and place competent, qualified people from the private sector who know what they are doing.

PROCEEDINGS ON ADJOURNMENT MOTION

[Translation]

SUBJECT MATTER OF QUESTIONS TO BE DEBATED

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Corbin): Order, please! It is my duty, pursuant to Standing Order 45, to inform the House that the questions to be raised tonight at the time of adjournment are as follows: the Hon. Member for Ontario (Mr. Fennell)—Crown Corporations—(a) Capitalization of Corporations (b) Use of letters of comfort; the Hon. Member for Mississauga-South (Mr. Blenkarn)—Crown Corporations—(a) Canada—Manufacture of executive jet aircraft—Government funding (b) Government position; the Hon. Member for Kootenay-East-Revelstoke (Mr. Parker)—Energy—(a) Sales

Export Development Act

of western coal in central Canada (b) Request for cost study of coal use.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

EXPORT DEVELOPMENT ACT

MEASURE TO AMEND

The House resumed consideration of Bill C-110, to amend the Export Development Act, as reported (with amendments) from the Standing Committee on Finance, Trade and Economic Affairs, and Motion No. 1 (Mr. Blenkarn).

Mr. Brian Tobin (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Fisheries and Oceans): Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this opportunity to comment on Bill C-110 and on the amendment proposed by the Hon. Member for Mississauga South (Mr. Blenkarn). We have heard a great deal of debate and concern expressed by Members who have spoken about the way in which the Government of Canada seeks to assist Canadian businessmen in doing business overseas. I am convinced everyone here is concerned about the same thing, that Canada is competitive and able to take advantage of the opportunity which exists and realize our fair share, as much as we are able, of markets which exist for our products in other countries. Having said that, I think we need to re-examine for a moment what the Minister for International Trade (Mr. Regan) has been trying to do. He simply made a proposal to increase the number of Members on the Export Development Corporation Board from 12 to 15. The fundamental purpose of that change is to ensure a broad-range representation on that board and ensure it works as effectively and as thoroughly as possible, and to assist Canadian business people.

The amendment by the Hon. Member says that the Government should ensure that of those 15 members no more than 3 should come from the public sector. That in itself, Mr. Speaker, I think is a very serious affront not to this political Party or that political Party or whatever group happens to form, from a political point of view, the Government of the day, but an affront to a Public Service which has shown itself through the decades to be both highly competent, willing and able to work with the Government of the day in implementing Government policy. I say that not as a defence of a Liberal Government, I say that as a defence of and a respect for the civil service of this nation.

I became somewhat concerned, Mr. Speaker, when I heard a few minutes ago the Hon. Member for Bow River (Mr. Taylor), perhaps less diplomatically I would suggest than some of his colleagues, describe the Public Service of this country in a very unflattering way, in my estimation. The Public Service of Canada is based on the merit principle, and my mind reckons back to a newspaper article of May 11 when the Conservative leadership was still on and a candidate for that